

## Anesthesia and Sedation

Safety and concern are the words that guide oral and maxillofacial surgeons and their anesthesia team in providing anesthesia and sedation to patients in their offices. For the oral and maxillofacial surgeon their professional education begins with dental school and continues through at least four more years of training in an accredited hospital-based residency program. Included in the OMS residency is (at a minimum) a five- six month rotation on the General Anesthesiology Service (at least one month of pediatric anesthesia training is incorporated into this rotation). Supplemental supervised training in ambulatory/ outpatient anesthesia (for all levels of anesthesia such as general anesthesia and moderate and deep sedation) throughout their residency of four years is mandatory (including adult and pediatric patients). General Surgery, Head and Neck Surgery, and Critical Care rotations are additionally included. In addition, certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) is obtained and maintained during clinical practice.

Not only do the practices of our North Carolina Society members meet the standards for administering anesthesia and sedation required by the State of North Carolina, they also must undergo a required office anesthesia evaluation every 5 years to assure that the office's personnel, equipment, drugs and emergency protocols meet the requirements established in the Office Anesthesia Evaluation program.

Patient assessment is taught early in the residency in order that residents will be able to use these skills and knowledge throughout training to assess their patients for surgery and anesthetic management. During the preoperative preparation, patients must complete a medical history and the OMS conducts a physical assessment. The surgeon records the diagnosis and treatment of the proposed surgery and the patient's physical status using the ASA physical status classification.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons' offices are fully equipped to manage their surgical patients. In recovery, the surgeon and trained staff monitor and remain with the patient until s/he meets specified discharge criteria. The OMS also maintains hospital privileges to be able to transfer a patient in the event of an emergency.

Safety and comfort can be found in the practice of a surgeon who is a member of the North Carolina Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Click on our "Find a Surgeon" link for the names of oral and maxillofacial surgeons in your community.