

Nitrous Oxide For Your Child's Procedure

Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) is a medicine given to your child to make him or her comfortable and relaxed for a procedure.

The medicine will keep acting in your child's body for up to 24 hours. He or she may not remember all of what happened. This is normal.

What to Expect During the Visit

- Your child will breathe in the medicine through a mask. He or she will be asked to breathe in and out normally.
- Your child can choose the smell of the mask, such as bubble gum or strawberry.
- A nurse will be in the room to make sure the mask stays in place.
- The health care team will closely watch your child during the procedure.

Important: Women who are pregnant should not be in the room during the procedure. Nitrous oxide may be harmful to a growing baby.

What to Expect After the Visit

- The nurse will remove the mask.
- Your child may not have a lot of energy after the procedure.
- A nurse will watch your child until the medicine has worn off.

- You need to stay with your child while he or she is recovering.

What to Expect at Home

- Give your child liquids.
- Your child may not be hungry the rest of the day. Offer foods he or she usually eats.
- If your child receives a pain medicine, follow the directions on the label.
- Follow the directions your health care provider gives you.

Benefits of Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous oxide may help your child:

- relax
- have less pain
- forget about the procedure once it is over.

Possible Side Effects

Nitrous oxide is safe. It does not have any long-term side effects. Short-term side effects may include:

- headache
- upset stomach (nausea)
- throwing up (vomiting).

When to Call Your Child's Primary Care Provider

Call your child's primary care provider if you have any questions or concerns.