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Uncooperative patient in pediatric dentistry : Dental treatment under conscious sedation or general anesthesia

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Conscious sedation and general anesthesia are behavioral control techniques increasingly used in pediatric dentistry. Inhalation sedation utilizing nitrous oxide - oxygen has been a primary technique in the management of anxiety and dental fears. It is usually the technique of choice for pediatric dental conscious sedation, children with special needs and for adults. It can reduce the need for general anesthesia. The technique has an extremely high success rate coupled with a very low rate of adverse effects and complications. Dental procedures under general anesthesia are a therapeutic option for many patients since it can provide a high quality dental care, when conventional dental treatment is not a viable option.

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