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To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Guidelines regarding use of sedatives or anesthetic agents dental care during pregnancy

As stated in our general guidelines, sedatives should be used with caution, and only if necessary.

Anesthetic agents are not known teratogens when used at standard doses and concentrations in the perioperative period, but there is emerging evidence that perinatal exposure to anesthesia may negatively influence some domains of neurodevelopmental behavior. Thus, exposure to medications should be minimized during pregnancy, but surgery should not be avoided when deemed necessary.

Pregnant patients may be more sensitive to anesthetic medications and should be titrated to effects. The patient should be positioned for surgery with a left uterine displacement to avoid aortocaval compression. Fetal well-being can be maintained by optimizing uteroplacental perfusion, including avoiding hypotension, hypoxia, hypocarbia, and acidosis. Fetal heart tones should also be documented before and after the procedure, and during the procedure when possible.

Multimodal analgesia should be used for postoperative pain control. Such strategies may include nonpharmacologic methods of pain control, acetaminophen, regional anesthesia techniques, and as-needed opioids.

While these guidelines can assist in determining the safety of treatment, specific health conditions must be considered for individual pregnant patients. We trust your clinical judgment as a dental professional in managing any required care. It is ultimately up to you to decide the appropriate treatment approach based on the patient's current dental condition and pregnancy state. Should you have any concerns about the patient's pregnancy status or any medications you plan to prescribe, please feel free to contact us for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Adriatica Women's Health  
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