



## **Risks, Benefits, & Alternatives**

**Risks-** Potential complications of the treatment, drugs or anesthetic agents; include but are not limited to: numbness, infection, swelling, bruising, bleeding, discoloration, nausea, vomiting, aspiration (of fluid or vomit into lungs), allergic reactions, brain damage, stroke, or heart attack. Although highly unlikely, complications may require hospitalization and may even result in death.

**Benefits-** The sedation that your child will receive will likely make your child's dental visit easier and more comfortable. Your child will also likely have a "foggy" memory or no memory of the dental visit the day after. Your child's dental treatment is deemed necessary by Dr. Chester Hsu in order to restore teeth and/or gums to health, prevent further deterioration of his or her dental condition, and to protect the health of permanent teeth that are still forming in the jaw. If space maintainers are required, their benefit is to prevent space loss and to maintain as much space as possible for permanent teeth to erupt. After treatment and adequate healing time, your child will likely become or remain pain-free and will have a healthier oral cavity.

**Alternatives-** Alternatives to sedation and treatment include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- **No Treatment-** However, dental conditions will worsen over time and cavities will likely eventually lead to an abscessed tooth, pain, swelling, early tooth loss, even serious dental infections that can lead to hospitalization and/or death.
- **Using Restraint Only-** However, treatment may not be able to be accomplished, and the child will more likely be psychologically traumatized by the dental treatment if they are fearful and "remember" everything. This is generally less comfortable and more stressful for the child.
- **Hospital General Anesthesia-** The risks are essentially the same as for oral conscious sedation and the sedation is much deeper. Appointment times are generally longer. This type of sedation is more costly than Oral Conscious Sedation.