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**Safety and efficacy sedation in a pediatric dental setting. Lisa M. Fox, Michael Milano, Susan Seybold, Dennis Johnston. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON.**

**Problem:** There is a strong relationship of adverse reactions during sedation procedures with non hospital-based facilities and with dental practitioners. **Purpose:** The purpose of this retrospective study is to examine the sedation procedure followed at the study clinic and to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the sedations performed at the study clinic from April 1, 1998 – November 30, 2000 (study period). **Methods:** All patient records of sedation appointments during the study period were selected and information pertinent to the sedation appointment recorded. The results were statistically analyzed. **Results:** Eight hundred sixty four sedation procedures were performed at HMC during the study period. Ninety five percent of the patients undergoing sedation were  $\leq$  89 months (range: 8mo-156mo, median 47 months). Median weight was 37 pounds. 90.5% were ASA I. On the Houpt Behavior Scale, 476 (68%) procedures were considered Excellent or Very Good, 149 (17%) Good, 323 (38%) Fair and Poor, and 4 (<0.5%) were Aborted. No mortality related to sedation procedures was reported. Two (< 0.5%) procedures were reversed with medication. **Conclusions:** Strict procedural guidelines (American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Guidelines) were followed at the study clinic for the sedation procedures. Sedation procedures at the study clinic during the study period were safe and effective. Further studies are required to determine the safety and efficacy of oral sedation procedures at other outpatient pediatric dental facilities.