

Statement on the Safety of IV Sedation in Patients of Venezuelan Ancestry

January 30, 2026

PDAA is aware of recent reports describing rare neurological complications in a small group of children whose mothers are of Venezuelan ancestry after receiving general anesthesia.

Based on the currently available information from national anesthesia organizations, these complications have only been associated with general anesthesia using certain anesthesia gases known as volatile inhaled anesthetic agents.

With PDAA:

- Children receive deep IV sedation — not general anesthesia
- Children may receive nitrous oxide (laughing gas) as part of sedation, but PDAA **never** uses the type of anesthesia gases implicated in these complications
- There have been no reports linking the medications that PDAA uses (nitrous oxide gas and IV sedation medications) to these complications

In addition, PDAA physicians have safely cared for nearly half-a-million patients using these same sedation techniques and have not experienced any serious long-term complications or safety issues.

Your child's safety is always PDAA's highest priority. The sedation methods used by PDAA have an excellent safety record and are specifically designed for children receiving dental care in the office setting.

If your child's mother is of Venezuelan ancestry, please inform the clinical team member during the preoperative telephone interview. Like all of our patient's parents, you will have the opportunity to speak directly to your anesthesiologist to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. We are always happy to discuss your child's care and address any questions you may have.