

Premier Dental Anesthesiology

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Q *I hear so much about sedation dentistry and sleep dentistry, how safe is it—really?*

A Having a board-certified anesthesiologist who's dedicated to performing and monitoring patients' deep sedation/general anesthesia process is very safe. After learning about deaths occurring in dental offices, Western Anesthesiology Associates, Inc. physicians developed Premier Dental Anesthesiology.

Our mission is to safely sedate or anesthetize dental patients who suffer from anxiety, severe gag reflexes, mental or physical challenges, an



Dr. Tom Saak, along with CRNA, Phil Graul.



L-R: Christopher Erkmann, M.D., Andrew Abele, M.D., Thomas Saak, M.D. and Stephen Smith, M.D.
Not shown: James Powell, M.D. and David Reimers, D.O.

inability to become numb, or those who simply need years' of work completed in a shorter period of time. Premier's physicians are highly trained board-certified anesthesiologists with decades of experience including caring for small children. The care begins before the patient arrives in the office. To ensure eligibility for care in an office setting, the patient is contacted prior to the appointment, and his or her medical history is evaluated.

For every case performed, an anesthesiologist and a nurse or anesthesiologist's assistant travel to the patient's dentist's office fully equipped to safely sedate the patient. Premier's mobile equipment is inspected routinely by state inspectors and is in compliance or exceeds requirements of all Missouri regulations.

With hundreds and hundreds of cases completed, Premier seamlessly acts as a separate set of hands for the dentists. There's no need for the patient's dentist to monitor sedation while he or she is working—that's a pretty tall order. Premier's physicians specialize in anesthesiology and allow the dentist to concentrate solely on the patient's dental care.

Premier does its job so dentists can do theirs—without distraction. Most importantly, patients receive the highest level of anesthetic care available to ensure their safety.