A variety of methods have been used to provide pre-procedural sedation for pediatric patients in the dental office setting. However, there are disadvantages with traditional methods such as oral, intra-nasal, or intra-muscular injection of sedative agents such as versed or ketamine.

In this small pilot study, we evaluated the use of a novel sub-lingual tablet consisting of midazolam (3 mg), ketamine (25 mg) and ondansetron (2 mg) in pediatric patients (age 4 and older) undergoing general anesthesia for dental procedures in the private office setting.

Patients were given 1 to 2 tablets 15 minutes prior to anesthesia induction. Quality of sedation was assessed using the Induction Compliance Checklist Score and adverse effects were assessed via direct observation and follow-up phone calls with the parents.

Overall, the midazolam/ketamine/ondansetron tablets produced excellent anxiolysis and cooperation during anesthesia induction with no serious adverse effects. More study is needed to determine the efficacy and safety of these tablets for pediatric sedation.