



Information about Intravenous sedation (IV)

IV Sedation for Dental Procedures:

Intravenous Sedation is the method of choice for the treatment of the highly fearful adult patient and those patients that want to be very comfortable during treatment.

Intravenous Sedation uses sedative drugs to rapidly create a relaxed state that is maintained and monitored throughout treatment. You will become drowsy and unaware of any treatment, but you will still be able to co-operate with the dentist.

We realize that many patients are apprehensive about the prospect of Dental procedures and aim to provide a caring, stress-free environment to help alleviate your worries. We are happy to discuss any particular concerns or needs that a patient may have.

What is intravenous sedation?

Intravenous sedation is used in addition to local anesthesia to help reduce the anxiety patients may have about their dental treatment. It makes it easier to have a potentially stressful treatment carried out. It is a modern, safe, effective and predictable way to reduce patient anxiety. It enables patients to undergo all procedures in a more pleasant fashion.

Can everyone have sedation?

In order to have a procedure performed under intravenous sedation an assessment must be performed prior to the day of your appointment. The appointment is to ensure that there are no contra-indications to you having intravenous sedation. There are some medical conditions and some social situations that may mean you are not suitable for sedation. An up-to-date medical history is required as well as a complete list of current medications. At

the assessment appointment we will assess you to make sure that it is safe for you to have sedation in a dental practice setting.

How does it work?

Intravenous sedation involves the administration of a medicine through a small plastic tube (cannula) in the back of your hand or inside of the elbow. The sedative used is called midazolam. This is a member of the benzodiazepine group of drugs. It provides a general state of relaxation during the treatment. The recovery period is also quite short, with no feelings of nausea.

What does sedation feel like?

When having treatment under intravenous sedation you will feel very relaxed and sleepy. In general people have a sense of detachment from what is going on. The sedative is given in small amounts over a period of time until you are sedated enough to have the procedure performed. You will remain conscious at all times and be able to talk and respond to instructions.

Throughout the procedure and during the recovery period your heart rate, blood oxygen levels and blood pressure are all monitored. Local anesthesia is also administered so there will be no pain throughout the procedure. After the operation you are likely to have little or no recollection of having the treatment carried out.

How long will the appointment last for?

Your appointment will be for approximately 90 minutes. This time allows for you to be sedated, have the area numbed and the procedure performed. After your surgery you will spend some time in the surgery to recover from the sedation. When you are ready for discharge your escort will be given instructions about how to look after you for the remainder of the day.

You **MUST** have someone to drive you home and cannot drive for 24 hours following the procedure. The effect of the sedation can take up to 24 hours to wear off. It is essential that you follow the post-operative instructions carefully after having intravenous sedation.