
INTRAVENOUS SEDATION

WHAT IS INTRAVENOUS SEDATION?

Intravenous sedation in dentistry is a modern, safe and effective technique of sedation that will make your dental visit a relaxing and comfortable experience. It is often referred to as 'Conscious Sedation' or 'Twilight Sedation'. A combination of sedative and pain relieving medications is used to create a sleepy, dream-like state for the whole procedure.

WHO CAN HAVE SEDATION?

Dental sedation is suitable for most people. However, depending on your state of health, the sedation may need to be modified. Prior to your treatment, you will fill in a medical history form and we will have a consultation. We will discuss your medical and surgical history, medications, allergies and any other relevant issues. I will then explain the procedure to you and answer any related questions. You will then sign a consent form.

HOW WILL SEDATION HELP ME?

During sedation, you become relaxed and drowsy and the dental treatment can be carried out painlessly. Intravenous sedation is available for any dental procedure. However, your dentist may recommend sedation in certain circumstances, e.g. extensive dental treatment, difficult procedures or for anxious patients.

HOW IS IT DONE?

The technique involves the injection of small amounts of medication into a vein in the arm. The medication soon takes effect, and you will slowly become relaxed and comfortable, and drift off into a dream-like state - not awake, but not unconscious either. You are continuously monitored throughout the procedure. You will be unaware and least concerned about any noises, tastes, smells or discomfort of the dental procedure, the needles involved, the drills or any instruments used. There is no pain and no anxiety. Due to the amnesia (forgetfulness) produced by these medications, it seems that you have been asleep for most of the treatment. However, you have merely been sedated and not unconscious in the way you would be under general anaesthesia.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS?

On completion of the treatment, you will 'wake up' gradually. You rest for a short while and when you can walk steadily you can be escorted home. While you may feel quite alert after the treatment, the sedative agents are not completely eliminated from the body for some hours afterwards. Your reflexes, judgement, coordination and balance will all take some time to return to normal. We recommend you stay at home and 'put your feet up'. It is best to avoid the possibility of injury due to a mishap or a lapse in judgement.