

Intra Venous Sedation

Patient information

What is intravenous (IV) sedation?

IV sedation is when a sedative is injected directly into a vein. If you are nervous about having dental treatment or you are having a procedure which may cause discomfort, intravenous (IV) sedation is an effective and safe treatment.

What are the benefits?

While under IV sedation, you will feel deeply relaxed but you will still be able to understand and respond to requests from the dentist. You will be unaware of the operation and this form of treatment is ideal for patients who wish to avoid the noise and vibration of the drill.

Are there any risks?

IV sedation is extremely safe when it is supervised by a specially trained dentist.

IV sedation has four main effects:

- It will reduce your anxiety and make you feel relaxed.
- It will make you feel sleepy.
- It will make you unaware of the procedure.
- It will result in partial – or total loss of memory of the procedure.

Do I need to prepare for IV sedation?

Patients who are to be treated using Intra-venous Conscious Sedation must be aware of the following:

- The patient must be accompanied by a responsible adult with transport.
- The patient should be supervised by a responsible adult for at least 8 hours after the appointment.
- The patient must avoid driving or using machinery for the rest of the day. (At least 12 hours after the appointment). Do not bring children with you to your appointment.
- The patient must take all normal medications and may consume light quantities of food and drink before the appointment.
- The patient should visit the toilet before the appointment.
- The patient must avoid alcohol before and for the rest of the day.
- The patient must remove nail varnish.

Please inform the dentist of any recent changes in medications or if you think you may be pregnant.

What happens during IV sedation?

An extremely thin plastic tube will be put into a vein either in one of your arms or in the back of one of your hands. A drug will then be injected which will quickly make you feel very sleepy and relaxed.

Throughout the procedure you will have a gadget clipped to your finger to measure your pulse and oxygen levels. Your blood pressure will be checked before and after the procedure. As well as IV sedation, you will be given a local anaesthetic. You will not be aware of being given the local anaesthetic because you will have it after the IV sedation. This involves an injection into the gum surrounding the area that you are having treated and it is similar to those your dentist may have given you for fillings. The injection will take a couple of minutes to numb the area and it ensures that you will feel no pain during your treatment. The length of time you will be sedated varies depending on the treatment you are having.

What happens after IV sedation?

Until the following day after you have had IV sedation:

- Do not travel alone – travel home with your escort, by car if possible.
- Do not drive or ride a bicycle or a motorcycle.
- Do not use machinery.
- Do not drink alcohol.
- Do not return to work, sign legal documents, or internet shop.

If you have any questions regarding the treatment, please contact the practice.