

INTRAVENOUS SEDATION

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Intravenous sedation or 'twilight sedation' is a very safe and highly effective adjunctive therapy for patients undergoing surgical procedures within the mouth. The sedative is given by an injection into a vein in the arm or back of the hand. It is a cheaper alternative to general anaesthetic as you are not required to go to hospital for the procedure. A qualified dental sedationist or medical anaesthetist will administer the sedative and monitor you throughout while the dental practitioner or Oral Surgeon carries out the procedure.

A combination of drugs will be administered that create a sleepy, pleasant, dream-like state for the whole procedure. IV sedation allows for a quicker recovery in comparison to general anaesthetic and it has fewer side effects. You will remain conscious throughout the procedure at all times and will be able to talk and respond to instructions. You usually remain unaware of the procedure at the time and usually have no memory of the surgery afterwards. The sedative does not have any painkilling effect so local anaesthetic (injection in and around the gum) is still required but this part is done while you are sedated.

Not all procedures are suitable for treatment under IV sedation and your surgeon will discuss this with you further. Likewise, some patients may not be suitable due to medical factors thus you will need to be assessed thoroughly by your sedationist prior. Ultimately it is for your safety.

However, it is usually tolerated well by most patients and is extremely useful for patients who require complex or long procedures, or those who have anxiety or fear about the procedure.

There will be instructions that you must follow strictly pre- and post-operatively. More information sheets will be given to you that will discuss these with you in more detail. Please ask for these if you think that IV sedation is something you would like to undertake.

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