

Guide to Intravenous Sedation



Why are you having intravenous sedation

Your dentist has recommended that you have dental treatment with intravenous sedation which will make you drowsy and help reduce discomfort and anxiety.

Intravenous sedation is where a sedative drug (medicine) is given to you through a plastic tube (cannula) into a vein in the back of your hand or in your arm.

The intravenous sedation drug used is called Midazolam. The dose, which is administered slowly and carefully, is specific to you as an individual.



What you will feel

Once you are sedated, any anxieties will be reduced, you will feel relaxed and sleepy and able to cope with treatment easily.

It is not a general anaesthetic and you will not be asleep, you will be able to respond to the dentist, however, many people do not remember anything about their treatment.

Once you are sedated you will be given some local anaesthetic, which will numb your mouth.

The cannula remains in until the end of the treatment and is then removed once the dentist has checked that you have recovered from the sedation and are ready to go home.



What to expect

It is usual to have at least two appointments. The first appointment will be an assessment when your dental treatment under sedation will be planned and discussed with you.

We will also check your medical history and your blood pressure and record the oxygen levels in your blood (using a pulse oximeter - a little clip that attaches to your finger and measures the level of oxygen in your blood).



We may also record your height and weight as part of the assessment. This is to ensure that we use the safest and most appropriate treatment and sedation for you.

It is very important that you let the dentist know your medical history and any medicines that you are taking as this may affect the treatment and your suitability for this type of sedation.

The dental treatment under sedation will take place at the second and subsequent appointments.

It is essential that you have a responsible and able-bodied adult to accompany you home after treatment and stay with you for the rest of the day (overnight if necessary). If you do not have an escort on the day we will unfortunately have to cancel your appointment.

During treatment

Your dentist and members of the dental team are trained to give sedation. They watch you closely throughout your treatment and treat any problems that may develop. They will use appropriate monitoring equipment throughout the sedation. Once you have finished your treatment, they will observe you in the surgery until you have made a full recovery. Once you have fully recovered, you will be discharged by your dentist into the care of your escort.

Are there any risks?

As with the administration of any medicines, there are risks associated with intravenous sedation. These might include:

- A reduction of oxygen in the blood stream due to poor breathing during sedation. You may be asked by your dentist to take deep breaths to correct this and this is usually all that is required. Occasionally it may be necessary to give you some extra oxygen to breath though a tube under your nose. Your breathing and oxygen levels will be monitored throughout the procedure.
- Bruising at the site of the cannula. This may take a few days to fade.

We will speak to you about risks in more detail when you sign your consent form.

The dentist will need to know if you have ever had any problems with having either sedation or a general anaesthetic. It is very important that you let your dentist know of your medical history including any medicines that you are taking as this may affect the treatment and your suitability for this type of sedation. The dentist will check this again on the day of treatment and if there are any changes since the last appointment.



Your dentist will discuss any concerns that you may have at your assessment appointment and prior to the procedure taking place.

If you think you may be pregnant, you need to let your dentist know. You may need to come back to have your treatment at another time. You should let the dentist know if you are breastfeeding.

Your dentist will discuss with you and explain what you are able to eat and drink prior to your appointment. It is usually not necessary to starve but we advise that you do not have anything to eat or drink for 2 hours before your appointment. However, you will be advised specifically regarding this and be given some written instructions. It is important that these instructions are followed carefully.

The information provided here is a general guide for patients having dental treatment with intravenous sedation. As part of your face-to-face discussions with your dentist, you may be given advice that is specific to your treatment plan.

Consent

At Arnica Dental Care we will always take time to discuss with you your treatment and care and involve you in all decisions. If you decide to go ahead with any form of treatment under sedation we will ask you to sign a consent form. This confirms that you agree to have the procedure and understand what is involved.

If you have any problems, concerns or questions then please do not hesitate to ring the practice on 01242 655554.