

Intravenous sedation - Frequently Asked Questions

Who will sedate me?

You will be sedated by a dentist specially trained in IV sedation. The dentist will be assisted by the dental nurse who has also received specific training.

What are the benefits – why should I have IV sedation?

Sedation by injection will help you cope with dental treatment and reduce your anxiety. Even people who do not feel anxious about dental treatment choose to have uncomfortable procedures such as extractions.

Who decides whether you can have IV sedation?

Your dentist. A consultation with your dentist will be undertaken and everything will be fully explained to you. Please don't worry, you are in safe hands.

What happens after the procedure?

At the end of treatment we will take you to a recovery area where your escort will be waiting. You will still feel drowsy and many people are clumsy and forgetful. For these reasons you will not be able to leave until you have been checked by the dentist. Most people spend about 30 minutes in the practice after treatment.

Drowsiness lasts no more than eight hours. Very occasionally some patients feel drowsy the following day.



All about...
**Intravenous
Sedation**

at
summertown
dental & implants

**For more details about intravenous
(IV) sedation visit our website**

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Help for anxious patients



What is intravenous sedation?

Intravenous (IV) sedation is designed to help you relax during your treatment. This is given by injection, either in the back of your hand or in your arm. The dose will depend on the amount of treatment needed and how long it will take to complete. 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.



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.

Following your sedation, you will need to stay at the practice until the dental team is satisfied that you are safe to be accompanied home by a responsible adult. This is because your judgement may be affected for the next 24 hours.

What to do on the day of treatment

- All patients must be accompanied home by a responsible adult
- **Do** continue to take routine medicine unless the dentist advises otherwise
- **Do** tell the dentist if you have been to see a family doctor or attended hospital since your appointment was made
- **Do** give details of any medicines, tablets or pills which you are taking and have not previously told us about
- **Do** inform the dentist if you might be pregnant or you are breast feeding
- **Do not** have a heavy meal on the day of the appointment, but there is no need for you to starve
- **Do not** drink any alcohol on the same day

If you are nervous about having dental treatment or you are having a procedure which may cause discomfort, IV sedation is an effective and safe treatment.

Special precautions after intravenous sedation

- **Do** rest for a few hours and take the rest of the day quietly
- **Do** eat light and easily digestible food for the rest of the day
- **Do** take medicines, tablets or pills which have been prescribed for you
- **Do not** drive any vehicle, operate machinery; use cookers, kettles or irons on the same day as your treatment. Your reflexes and judgement may have been affected
- **Do not** drink any alcohol until the following day

