

WHAT IS

Intravenous Sedation?

Intravenous (IV) sedation is where medication is delivered directly into your blood stream, in order to reduce any anxiety associated with treatment.

The sedation technique involves the painless injection of small amounts of a sedative directly into your bloodstream, via a line in your arm. You will gradually become very relaxed and drowsy and your treatment can be carried out more comfortably. Local anaesthetic injections are still necessary, however, these will not cause any discomfort. The sedative drugs we use often produces amnesia (forgetfulness), therefore, it may seem that you have been asleep for most of the treatment – however, you have merely been sedated, not unconscious, as you would be under general anaesthesia.

IV sedation is suitable for most healthy patients, however if you are not in good health, or are taking any medicines or tablets, you need to advise us so that the sedation can be modified to suit your needs. Before your appointment you will be asked to fill in a medical history form. Please do this thoroughly and if you do not understand any question, discuss it with your dentist/ periodontist, or one of our staff. Even though you have filled out a health questionnaire on your first visit, we ask that you fill out another that is part of our consent form.

On completion of the treatment you will rest for a short while before being escorted home. While you will feel quite alert after treatment, the sedative agents are not completely eliminated from the body for several hours afterwards – hence the need for an escort. You will be provided with detailed pre and post-operative instructions.

Intravenous sedation enables dental treatment to be carried out with you feeling more relaxed than you might otherwise be, and also you will be far less aware of what is going on. We will be pleased to explain it further to you, if you have any queries.

