

University Dental Hospital of Manchester
Department of Restorative Dentistry

Information for Patients

Dental Treatment under Intravenous Sedation and Local Anaesthetic

This leaflet has been provided to you because you have opted to have your dental treatment under intravenous sedation. This leaflet aims to help you understand the treatment you are going to have and answers some commonly asked questions. Please read the following information carefully and make sure your escort also understands what they have to do. There is a separate information sheet for your escort and if you have any further questions please ask.

All written information provided to you in leaflets is also available on our website. Please visit www.mft.nhs.uk/dental/

What is Intravenous (IV) sedation?

IV sedation helps you to feel more calm and relaxed, making lengthy or complex dental treatment more comfortable and easy for you. It can help remove anxiety, stress, discomfort, memory and awareness of the procedure. You will have a sedative injected directly into a vein via a small cannula (plastic tube). This is normally inserted into the back of your hand or the crease of your elbow and taped onto your skin for the duration of the treatment.

If you are worried about the injection in the back of your hand or arm, we can provide you with an anaesthetic cream that you can apply to the skin on the injection site at home. The cream needs to be applied to the skin 1 hour before your appointment time.

Will I be awake during my treatment?

Please be reassured that you will not be asleep during the dental treatment. You will be conscious (awake) for all the treatment making it different to a general anaesthetic. You maintain your ability to breathe for yourself, and your ability to respond to us if required. Due to the effects of the drug you may not be able to remember all of the treatment carried out.

Are there any risks?

IV sedation is extremely safe and effective when supervised by a specially trained dentist. It will help to reduce your anxiety and can make you feel drowsy, tired, cold and unsteady on your feet. We will keep you in the dental surgery until you are recovered and it is safe for you to return home.

It may result in partial or total memory loss of the procedure so your dentist will explain what treatment has been performed to both you and your escort at the end of the appointment. Occasionally, the sedative can also make your breathing shallower. Your dentist will provide you with additional oxygen via some tubing around your nose if necessary.

In very rare circumstances some people are resistant to the sedative and the sedation may be unsuccessful, others may experience a paradoxical reaction where the sedative can make you feel more agitated and nervous. It is possible for any drugs and materials used to cause an allergic reaction. In the eventuality of any of these very rare occurrences, the sedation procedure will be stopped and the appropriate care will be provided.

Are there any alternatives?

- Local anaesthetic alone
- Inhalation sedation
- Oral sedation
- General anaesthetic

These options may or may not be suitable for you and your dentist will discuss these with you at your consultation or pre-operative assessment.

Will I need an injection in the gum?

For the majority of dental treatment you will require a local anaesthetic injection. This will be given after you are sedated.

How long will I be at the dental hospital?

The treatment will be provided in a dental surgery within the dental hospital. You can expect to be in the dental hospital for 90 minutes, but this could be longer depending on what dental treatment you are having and your recovery time. Please ensure your escort makes adequate parking arrangements if you are travelling by car. Please do not arrange to do anything after your appointment. You will need to return straight home and rest to allow the effects of the sedative to wear off.

Consent

By Law we must obtain your written consent for any procedure to be undertaken with IV sedation. Staff will explain risks, benefits and alternatives with you before they ask you to sign the consent form. You will be offered a copy of this form to take home with you. If you are unaware about any aspect of your treatment please do not hesitate to ask questions.

You must confirm your consent for the procedure before the treatment starts.

Occasionally, due to unexpected findings during your sedation appointment, the nature of dental treatment able to be provided may need to change. You will be unable to make any important decisions about your treatment whilst under the sedative. We will inform you and your escort of any changes at the treatment visit and discuss these with you at your next appointment.

Treatment by students

Manchester Dental Hospital is a teaching hospital where students get practical experience treating patients under supervision from a senior member of staff. Please tell a doctor or nurse if you do not want to have students involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

If you have any concerns

If you experience any problems or have any worries or concerns, please telephone the Department of Restorative Dentistry on telephone number (0161) 393 7734 or (0161) 393 7735 between the hours of 09.00 and 17.00. Outside these hours please contact your dentist or your local A&E department.