

Mountain Sedation & Dental Surgery

General Dentist Offering In-Office Oral Surgery

www.mtnsds.com

Sedation Options

There are safe and effective options for patients who require sedation to perform their dental treatment. Our office offers nitrous oxide (laughing gas), oral sedation and IV sedation available where indicated.

Nitrous Oxide is not “true” sedation. It is a gas given through a nose piece, and its intent is not to make you drowsy but rather to reduce anxiety and “take the edge off.” Advantage is that you don’t need a driver and the effects are worn off within 5 minutes of completion. It is non-invasive and the nose piece is easily applied and removed. Disadvantage is you are not sedated and you will likely remember the procedure.

For patients with higher anxiety, we recommend oral or IV sedation:

Oral sedation is ideal for the mildly anxious patient who prefers a sedative tablet in lieu of IV sedation. The advantages of oral sedation are that it is non-invasive (no IV line is required) and works very well for many patients. It is as simple as taking a couple pills. Some patients elect this route of sedation and often have no recollection of the procedure. The disadvantage is that it is less predictable. The degree of sedation on any given patient may vary, and even on the same patient at different visits. Because of this, nitrous oxide can be used in addition to the pills taken to help patients achieve a more relaxed state. If patients have had oral sedation in the past with effective results, it is usually possible to give the same medication & dosage if that information is known.

Intravenous (IV) moderate sedation is a safe, highly predictable, and commonly used technique that allows anxious patients and those with special needs to receive the dentistry they need in a peaceful environment. The advantage is that it is more predictable because the dentist is able to give more or less medication depending on how a patient is responding and tailor the dose to what the patient needs. It is ideally suited for very anxious patients or even mildly anxious patients undergoing an invasive procedure. While not completely “put to sleep,” patients under IV sedation are relaxed, often fall asleep, and generally remember nothing from the procedure. The disadvantage of this method is having to establish IV access which involves using a needle on the hand or arm, and many patients are already fearful of a needle. In these cases, we will sometimes have patients take a pill before arriving at the office, or we will use nitrous oxide while placing the IV in order to relax them enough to proceed. We normally numb the skin prior to IV placement to minimize sensation of the needle.

Deep sedation/general anesthesia is also done via an intravenous (IV) route, similar to moderate sedation with some additional medications being used. It is intended to sedate to a deeper level and may be indicated when previous sedation methods (conscious sedation) have failed or if it is anticipated that a patient will not tolerate being conscious while sedated. Its advantage is that it is the deepest level of sedation and the patient is nearly guaranteed to be asleep and have no recollection. Its disadvantage is that it involves the most risk due to the depth of sedation and intended level of consciousness. Patients still breathe on their own accord, but they may need assistance breathing during the procedure. This method of sedation is not offered at our office.

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