

# SEDATION DENTISTRY

The administration of local anesthesia, sedation and general anesthesia is an integral part of our sedation dentistry practice. We are committed to the safe and effective use of these modalities.

Level of sedation is entirely independent of the route of administration. Moderate and deep sedation or general anesthesia may be achieved via any route of administration and thus an appropriately consistent level of training must be established.

Although both sedation dentistry and sleep dentistry can be characterized as forms of sedation, they are different practices.

The broad objective behind using sedation in conjunction with dentistry, is to relieve the anxiety and pain experienced by the patient. Different degree of anxiety on the part of any individual considering sedation should first be evaluated by the treating sedation dentist. A treatment plan should be devised based upon the needs and goals of that individual patient. Only then can the appropriate level of sedation be determined.

## The benefits of Sedation Dentistry

### SEDATION DENTISTRY and RELAXATION

Anxiety and dental phobias are often what keeps patients from seeking the treatment they require. Sedation transforms dentist visits into a relaxing experience, with patients experiencing relief from any stress or fear.

### SEDATION DENTISTRY and COMFORT

Thanks to the muscle-relaxing effects of the sedative, lengthy treatments no longer need to leave you with a sore jaw from holding your mouth open for an extended period.

### SEDATION DENTISTRY and CONTROL OVER GAG REFLEX

Reducing the gag reflex is another added benefit of sedation. Gagging and in particular gagging caused by anxiety can be easily managed with sedation.

Patients who suffer from having a sensitive gag reflex will experience a much greater level of comfort while a dentist is performing treatment

#### SEDATION DENTISTRY and LITTLE TO NO MEMORY OF THE TREATMENT

Following treatment under sedation, patients often remember very little of the procedure. Patients can feel as though procedures take only a matter of minutes even if treatment has lasted for a number of hours. Invasive treatments such as gum surgery, root canals or multiple extractions can be quite painful for patients; these patients will benefit from limited memory of treatment.

#### SEDATION DENTISTRY and PATIENT COOPERATION

For a dentist, the major benefit of sedation is increased patient co-operation. Unexpected movements of patients can sometimes make even the most simple of procedures a complex task. Having the patient sedated means dentists are able to perform dental care with little to no distractions.

#### SEDATION DENTISTRY and SAVING TIME

Sedation can assist patients to tolerate longer appointment times without feeling discomfort or fatigue in their jaw muscles. This allows dentists to operate for longer periods and with greater efficiency. Complex or multiple procedures can often require a number of appointments; under sedation these procedures can often be completed in the one sitting.