

Intravenous sedation

Important information
for adult patients



Your dentist has recommended that you have intravenous sedation. This means that a sedative drug (medicine) is given to you by injection into a vein. The sedation makes you drowsy and helps reduce anxiety.

What is Intravenous Sedation?

Intravenous sedation is usually given by using a single drug called midazolam. An amount of the drug is chosen for you individually. It is given by injection. This is usually into a vein in the back of your hand or in your arm through a cannula.

A cannula is a thin flexible tube. A needle is used to put the cannula in but is then removed immediately. It is normal to feel a sharp scratch when the cannula is inserted. A local anaesthetic paste or liquid can be used on the skin first to reduce the sensation of the injection. Once the cannula is in the vein, the sedation drug can be given without using any more needles.

The cannula remains in until the dentist has checked that you have recovered from the sedation but it will be removed before you go home.

As with the administration of any medicines, there are risks associated with intravenous sedation. These might include:

- A reduction of oxygen in the blood stream due to slower breathing during sedation. You may be asked by your dentist/sedationist to take deep breaths to correct this. Your breathing and oxygen levels will be monitored throughout the procedure.

- Bruising at the site of the cannula. This may take several days to fade completely.

Very rare risks include allergic reactions to the sedative drugs that you have been given or vomiting during the procedure. Your dentist will discuss any concerns that you may have prior to the procedure taking place.

It is important that you let the dentist know your medical history, including any medicines that you are taking. The dentist will need to know if you have ever had any problems with having either sedation or a general anaesthetic.

Before any treatment is started, the dentist will ask you to confirm consent. This means that you understand the planned treatment and how you will receive the sedation.

What to expect

Your appointment will last approximately two hours but some patients take a little longer than others to be ready to go home so please be aware that a precise time can not always be given.

The dentist will give you the sedation slowly until you are at a relaxed level to cope with your dental treatment.

Intravenous sedation is not the same as a general anaesthetic (which puts you to sleep). You will remain conscious during this kind of sedation, however many people do not remember a lot about their treatment.

You may feel unsteady on your feet for some hours after the procedure. Your ability to think clearly and make judgements may be affected for the next 24 hours. You may experience some forgetfulness.

Once you are sedated, the dentist will use local anaesthetic to numb the site of dental treatment.

Local anaesthetic as a paste is sometimes used to numb the area first. Any injections you need will then be given through this numbed area to minimise any discomfort.

After the treatment

You will spend some time in the recovery area following your treatment. You will be checked by the dentist before you can go home. Before you are discharged, the dentist or dental nurse will give you and the adult accompanying you (escort) important information about your aftercare.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to ask the dentist or dental nurse who will be more than happy to provide you with further information.

Leeds Dental Institute Sedation Unit contact telephone numbers

NORMAL WORKING HOURS:
(Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm)

Telephone Sedation Unit reception on **(0113) 343 1168** or switchboard on **(0113) 244 0111**, and ask to be put through to Sedation Unit.



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