

Intravenous Sedation

What is Intravenous Sedation?

Intravenous Sedation otherwise referred to as “IV Sedation” is designed to help you feel more relaxed and comfortable during our treatment with us. This form of sedation will help to reduce your anxiety whilst the proposed treatment is being carried out.

The medication most commonly used is **midazolam**, which is carefully tailored to each patient’s individual needs.

The sedative drug is administered through a small flexible tube called a **cannula**, usually placed into a vein on the back of your hand or arm. A needle is used briefly to position the cannula and is removed immediately. You may feel a short sharp scratch when it is inserted.

The cannula will remain in position until the dental team is satisfied that you have recovered safely from the sedation and will be removed before you leave the practice.

In most cases, treatment involves a **minimum of two appointments**:

- **Assessment appointment** – Your medical history, treatment plan, and suitability for sedation will be discussed.
- **Treatment appointment(s)** – Your dental treatment will be carried out under IV sedation.

Benefits and possible risks of IV sedation

Benefits:

IV sedation is commonly used to help patients who feel anxious or nervous about dental treatment. It can help you feel more relaxed and comfortable, making treatment easier for you.

Your Dentist and Dental Nurse are fully trained in providing sedation and will monitor you closely throughout your procedure using appropriate monitoring equipment. After treatment, you will remain in the surgery or recovery area until you are fully recovered and safe to go home.

Possible risks and side effects

As with all medications, IV sedation carries some risks and possible side effects.

These may include:

- Slower or reduced breathing, which may lower oxygen levels temporarily. Your breathing and oxygen levels will be continuously monitored, and you may be asked to take deep breaths if required.
- Bruising or tenderness at the cannula site, which may take a few days to settle.
- Nausea or vomiting during or after treatment (rare).
- Allergic reaction to the sedative medication (very rare).
- In the unlikely event that the sedation needs to be reversed, a medication called **Flumazenil** may be administered through the cannula already placed in your arm or hand.

Please inform your dentist about:

- Any medical conditions you have
- Any medications you are currently taking
- Previous experiences with sedation or general anaesthetic
- Any allergies
- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding

Your dentist will discuss any concerns with you before treatment.

It is recommended that you have a light meal at least **two hours before** your appointment unless advised otherwise.

During your treatment

You will remain conscious throughout the procedure, although you are likely to feel deeply relaxed and may remember very little afterwards.

Many patients experience temporary memory loss while sedated and have little or no recollection of the procedure itself. You may also feel slightly unsteady afterwards, and your concentration and judgement can be affected for up to 24 hours.

Once sedated, your dentist will administer local anaesthetic to numb the treatment area and keep you comfortable during the procedure.

After treatment, you will remain under supervision until the dentist confirms you are ready to go home.

Important

You **must** be accompanied home by a responsible adult escort who can take care of you afterwards, they will need to stay with you overnight.

If you do not have suitable arrangements in place, your sedation appointment may need to be postponed.

Please ask your dentist or a member of the dental team if you have any questions or concerns about your sedation.

After your treatment

The effects of sedation can last for several hours. For the **next 24 hours**, your judgement and coordination may be impaired in a similar way to alcohol consumption.

For this reason, **you must not:**

- Drive a car or ride a bicycle
- Operate machinery or electrical appliances
- Cook or use sharp objects
- Sign important documents or make major decisions
- Care for children or dependants alone
- Drink alcohol or take recreational drugs

You should also take care when using the internet, social media, or making important purchases or decisions online during this period.

Before you leave the practice, both you and your escort will be given full post-operative instructions by the Dentist or Dental Nurse.

Further questions

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your treatment or sedation, please contact the practice:

Telephone: [028 9061 4937](tel:02890614937)

Email: info@finaghydental.com