



VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL HEALTH SOCIETY

DENTAL CLINIC

"INTRAVENOUS (IV) SEDATION)

Having intravenous sedation for your dental treatment

The aim of this information booklet is to help answer some of the questions you may have about having intravenous sedation for your dental treatment. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives of the procedure as well as what you can expect when you come to the dental clinic. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a dentist caring for you.

What is intravenous sedation?

Intravenous sedation involves giving you an injection of sedative drug through a plastic tube into a vein in your arm or hand. The sedative drug will relax you and make you feel sleepy during your treatment.

Once you are sedated, you will be given a local anesthetic injection which will numb your mouth before treatment begins.

What are the benefits – why should I have intravenous sedation?

Sedation by injection will help you cope with dental treatment and reduce your anxiety. Even people who do not feel anxious about dental treatment choose to have sedation for uncomfortable procedures such as extractions (removing a tooth).

What are the risks?

Intravenous sedation can slow down your breathing. We overcome this by monitoring you closely and giving you oxygen (through a mask) if needed.

Another possible side-effect is bruising to your hand or arm after the injection but this should only last a few days. We will speak to you about risks in more detail before you sign the consent form.

Asking for your consent

We want to involve you in decisions about your care and treatment. If you decide to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This states that you agree to have the treatment and you understand what it involves. If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for you.

Are there any alternatives?

The alternatives to this type of sedation are local anaesthesia without sedation and general anaesthesia.

Treatment under local anesthesia will involve an injection into the gum so that there will be no pain. But without additional sedation you will be more aware of the dental experience. General anesthesia is riskier and is reserved for people who are unable to cope with treatment under sedation due to disability or who need a great deal of treatment.

How can I prepare for my appointment?

- You **MUST** have a responsible/able-bodied adult to come with you to hospital, stay until your treatment is complete, escort you home and look after you for the rest of the day. As your escort is there to look after you they must not have children with them.
 - If a responsible/ able-bodied adult is not able to be with you at your appointment, and treatment is urgent for your wellbeing. Please considering the following "Registered Ambulatory Transfer Services" - Patients with IV therapy (private charges may be applied)
 - Hospital Transfers (SN Transport Ltd)
Non-emergency Patient Transfer
P. 1.800.768.0044 | 604.852.3366
F. 604.852.3354
E. info@hospitaltransfers.org
 - Lifesupport Emergency Services
p. 604.800.6990
 - Patient Transport Service
Non-emergency Patient Transfer - St. John's Ambulance
P 604.630.1228
E. transfers@bc.sja.ca
 - BC - MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (only for eligible patients: PWD & PPMB)
Travel Assistance Program (TAP) provided by Ministry of Health (MoH)
SUBMISSION SHOULD BE AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/policies-for-government/bc-employment-assistance-policy-procedure-manual/forms/pdfs/hr3320.pdf>
- Your medicines will be reviewed before you come in for the procedure, and you will be told if you need to stop any of them temporarily.
- Unless you are advised otherwise, please continue to take your routine medicines as usual. Please let your dentist know if you have allergies to any medicines.
- Loose clothing should be worn to facilitate the starting of an intravenous line to administer the sedation or anesthetic and also to facilitate the placement of monitoring equipment. Flat comfortable shoes should be worn.
- Contacts should not be worn on the day of the surgery. No make-up, jewelry, or nail polish should be worn on the day of the planned surgical procedure.
- If you develop a cold or feel unwell before your treatment, or think you might be pregnant, please call us for advice.

- Please arrive for your appointment on time as we may not be able to see you if you arrive late. Should you wish to proceed, we will provide eating and drinking information before your appointment.
- If you have children or a pet(s), you will need to arrange help with looking after them until the following day. Please do not bring any pet(s), children or babies to the clinic with you as we do not have a suitable space for them to wait.

What happens during the sedation?

The dentist will explain the treatment planned and check that you understand what will happen. The dental nurse will take your blood pressure.

You will be asked to lie back in the dental chair and have a small, plastic tube (cannula) placed in your arm or hand. The dentist will then give the sedation slowly through this tube and encourage you to relax. The dental team will monitor your breathing throughout treatment.

Will I feel any pain?

Your dentist will use local anesthesia to numb the area where you will be having treatment. You might feel a slight stinging sensation while having the local anesthetic injection but then the area should feel numb.

We will do our best to make sure you feel as comfortable as possible during the procedure. Please let us know if you feel any discomfort.

What happens after the procedure?

At the end of treatment we will walk you to the recovery area where your escort will be waiting. You will still feel sleepy and many people are clumsy and forgetful. For these reasons you will not be able to leave until you have been checked by the dentist or dental nurse.

Most people spend about 30 minutes in the recovery area. The plastic tube will remain in your arm or hand until you are fit to leave.

What do I need to do after I go home?

For your safety, it is important that you follow the advice on the next page. Although you might feel fine, your reasoning, reflexes, judgement, coordination and skill can be affected by the sedation until the next day.

Please rest at home until the following day. During this time you should not:

1. drive any vehicle or ride a bicycle
2. operate any machinery, including domestic appliances
3. attempt to cook, use sharp utensils or pour hot or boiling liquids
4. drink alcohol or smoke
5. take sleeping tablets
6. make any important decisions or sign any contracts

7. be responsible for children or other dependants.

Will I have a follow-up appointment?

If you need a follow-up appointment, your dentist will let you know.