

Sedation Dentistry

Physicians have already set the standard of treating patients using sedation in the U.S. over the past 30 years. It is nothing new to patients for operations on knees, feet, wrists, ears, noses, everything. Patients ask dentists for sedation and the dentists do everything they can to talk them out of it. This is because most dentists do not want to go through the additional training and accreditation process that is necessary to sedate patients.

You wouldn't think of having an ear operation or a nose operation without sedation. But you move one inch to the teeth and it becomes acceptable to endure time-consuming, strenuous, noisy, and uncomfortable procedures on the most sensitive, personal part of the body (the mouth) with no sedation. Dentists attempt to work outside of the already established standard of using sedation. Hence, we as dentists treat only 50% of the population while physicians treat over 90%.

We have found that fearful patients mentally have no problem being sedated for dental treatment. You ask a nervous patient, "Would you rather have this work done in six appointments over the next two months or in one appointment while you sleep?" and they look at you like you're crazy. "Put me to sleep" is all they say. Sedation for certain types of dental care has been used for over 30 years. If you asked a hundred patients who have had their wisdom teeth removed how they had it done, most would say they were put to sleep to have them removed.

The problem is that dentists say, "Oh wisdom teeth extractions and root canals and drilling on teeth is not bad enough." This is why 50% of the population does not go to the dentist. The patient is the one who needs to determine what is bad enough for them to warrant sedation, not the dentist. If you feel that sedation, which is the standard of care for the rest of the body, is necessary for your dental care, call us.

Type of Sedation

The sedation we utilize is oral sedation (pills). We use pills for several reasons.

1. Many of our patients are needle-phobic.
2. With oral sedation we can work on patients for a longer period of time.
3. Oral sedation is very safe.
4. The pills stay in a patient's system for several hours after the appointment, helping reduce discomfort after procedures are completed.

Safety

Another reason that we use this oral sedation technique is because of its safety. The pill that we use is a common sleeping pill. In 2006, for example, 2,200,000 of these pills were taken by people, not on an annual basis, not on a monthly basis but on a daily basis. The vast majority of these tablets were taken by patients at home to help them sleep at night. We give our patients more than they would take at home, but we use state-of-the-art, hospital-type monitoring equipment to assess the patient's pulse, oxygen saturation in the blood, and blood pressure.

How You Will Feel

Basically, you will have slept through the appointment. The most common comment that we hear is "I remember taking some pills and the next thing I remember is waking up with my teeth fixed." Most patients remember nothing about their treatment. A few will remember a little, usually at the end of the appointment, when we are getting them ready to go home. You will need someone to bring you to our office on the day of your sedation appointment and you **MUST** have someone take you home afterwards.