



APPREHENSION OF DENTAL TREATMENT

It is common and perfectly normal to have some degree of apprehension or anxiety prior to receiving dental treatment. Some people, however, have stronger feeling in this regard than others. These feelings may have been produced by a less than pleasant past experience, stories told by family or friends, or by the nature of the dental procedure itself (wisdom teeth removal). Dental treatment may be especially frightening to young children and patients with developmental disabilities. Whatever the cause, apprehension or anxiety, can produce many unpleasant effects including heart palpitations, high blood pressure, upset stomach and trouble sleeping the night before the appointment. Many highly apprehensive patients avoid dental care for many years until their problems become so severe that they are forced to seek emergency care.



Intravenous Sedation

What Patients Should Expect



HUNTINGTON SMILES



WHAT IS INTRAVENOUS SEDATION

IV Sedation is a state-of-art technique for the comprehensive control of pain and anxiety in dentistry. There are other methods used in dentistry such as oral (pill) sedation but IV Sedation's **superior** results make it the method of choice for the highly fearful dental patient. Because of the types of medications used and their instant delivery, IV Sedation allows the dentist to control their effects precisely. Patients who receive conscious sedation usually are able to speak and respond to verbal cues throughout the procedure, communicating any discomfort they experience to the dentist. A brief period of amnesia will typically erase any memory of the procedure.



WHO CAN ADMINISTER INTRAVENOUS SEDATION?

Intravenous sedation is extremely safe when administered by qualified providers. The use of IV Sedation in dentistry is carefully regulated by the Dental Board of California. To perform these advanced sedative techniques special training and clinical experience is required. In addition to training in sedation techniques, Dr. Su is also trained in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) from the American Heart Association. Approval to perform IV Sedation requires the office to be specially equipped with emergency equipment and medications. This includes an ECG monitor to observe your heart rate, rhythm and breathing. The ability to handle emergency situations as well as having specific emergency equipment and medications is a mandatory part of the permitting process.



HOW WILL I FEEL?

You will feel comfortable at all times. You will be in a deep and relaxed state but will be responsive to verbal commands. Patients often comment that they were asleep throughout the procedure. You will be given a local anaesthetic for the work in your mouth after the sedative is administered. Following your treatment, it is unlikely you will remember the actual dental procedures. You will be groggy and unsteady and therefore **MUST** have a responsible ADULT (18+ years of age) escort you home. Patients should not drive a vehicle, operate dangerous equipment or make any important decisions for at least 24 hours after receiving intravenous sedation. A follow-up phone call is usually made to check on the patient's condition and answer any questions.