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Gentle Dentistry Using IV Sedation

The more relaxed a patient is during their dental visit, the more comfortable and successful their experience will be. Until recently there was little that dentists could do to relax patients who suffer anxiety, or for others who have to go through long appointments to have multiple procedures done. Gentle dentistry using IV sedation is the answer for many patients. At our office we have a dentist specially trained in CONSCIOUS IV SEDATION. The dentist administers relaxant medications intravenously to the client using specific protocols as directed by the Canadian Dental Association. The dentist along with 2 specially trained & Registered Dental Assistants use special monitors to closely and continuously monitor the clients' blood pressure, pulse, oxygen saturation, and respiratory rates to ensure the patient is completely comfortable and responding well to the procedure.

Frequently asked Questions

Q: What is CONSCIOUS IV SEDATION?

A: Conscious sedation does not mean that you will be awake and "conscious" for the procedure; it just means that you will be able to respond to physical stimulation and obey simple verbal commands. It also means that you will be able to also maintain your breathing rate safely. You will be so relaxed that you will and should not experience any pain, discomfort or anxiety during the procedure. The sedative agents used cause an amnesic effect which in most cases clients usually report not remembering much of the procedure and actually believe they were fully asleep for the whole procedure, making hours feel like minutes.

Q: Will I really be totally relaxed?

A: Yes. You will receive just enough sedation so that you will be completely unaware of the treatment, as if you were totally asleep.

Q: Will I feel any pain?

A: Most clients do not experience any discomfort during the procedure and feel fairly well after the procedure. Even though you will be receiving sedation, traditional dental anesthetic must still be used as the sedative agents are used to take you to a relaxed state, they do not relieve the discomfort that may arise with dental treatment; therefore dental freezing will still be administered but only AFTER the sedative drugs are administered.

Q: Is IV sedation safe for me?

A: It is very important that we review all your medical history and at Dr. Lee's discretion he may require you to have a detailed medical examination done by your family physician at least 2 weeks prior to your appointment. There is specific documentation and consents that MUST be completed prior to your appointment that must be reviewed by the sedating dentist. You will be constantly and safely monitored and cared for by the dentist and dental team during the sedation to ensure maximum safety and comfort.

Children over the age of 16 years will be assessed by the dentist on a case by case basis. The assessment will be based on overall health, body weight and physical maturity. Medically compromised patients must be referred to a specialist to be sedated.

Q: Will my insurance cover it?

A: The IV sedation has limited coverage on most policies. We will be happy to assist you with reviewing your coverage. All financial matters must be taken care of prior to your sedation being started.