

Anesthesia Facts and Informed Consent

Facts for Consideration:

Anesthesia is a matter of degree on a continuum beginning at a low level and adjusted to lighter or deeper levels depending on the patient's tolerance for pain and response to the drugs used.

Patients may require local anesthesia, light to moderate conscious sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia for their comfort during dental procedures. Your dentist will recommend and explain to you which type of anesthesia might be appropriate for your individual dental needs.

Option #1 Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Inhalation

Nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation is a mild form of conscious sedation used to calm an anxious patient. It is a colorless, odorless gas that has no explosive or flammable properties that is given through a small mask placed over the nose. Oxygen is used after the procedure is complete to flush the nitrous out of the patients system and minimize the effects of the gas.

Risks include but are not limited to: a temporary inability to perceive one's spatial orientation, numbness, and tingling. Nausea and vomiting may occur.

Option #2 Local Anesthesia

Anesthetizing agents are injected into a small area of the mouth as a nerve block with the intent of numbing the area to receive dental treatment. It is normal for the numbness to take time to wear off after treatment, usually two to three hours.

Risks include but are not limited to: infection, swelling, allergic reactions, discoloration, headache, tenderness at needle site, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and cheek, tongue, or lip biting can occur.

Option #3 Conscious Sedation

Conscious sedation is a controlled, drug induced, that allows the patient to breathe independently and continuously respond appropriately to physical stimulation and/or verbal commands. This type of anesthesia may be administered orally.

Risks include but are not limited to: swelling, allergic reactions, headache, dizziness, nausea, delayed reflexes, and vomiting. Patients should not drive a car or operate machinery for 24 hours because the effects of the sedation remain in the system even after the patient is awake and mobile.

Alternative Treatments:

If any of the above listed anesthesia does not relieve the patient's anxiety or pain, another level of anesthesia may be needed. It may be necessary to bring in an anesthesiologist into the dental operator or refer the patient to another dentist that has the appropriate equipment and credentials to administer a deep sedation. These types of services may result in an additional charge.

For all Female Patients:

Because anesthetics, medications, and drugs may be harmful to an unborn child and may cause birth defects, every female must inform the dentist if she is or could be pregnant or breast feeding.

I have read the above information concerning the different types of anesthesia used at the office of Dr. Nina Svino. If and when the time comes that I may need a form of anesthesia during a dental procedure I attest that I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the different methods of anesthesia and I believe that I have sufficient information to give my consent.

Patient Signature

Date