

IV Sedation and Anesthesia

Oral and Maxillofacial surgeons are unique among the surgical specialties with regards to anesthesia training. Every oral and maxillofacial surgeon during their residency receives formal anesthesia training with the department of anesthesia in the hospital. They are trained to safely administer anesthesia to patients. This includes IV sedation, general anesthesia and intubation techniques, as well as complete training in advanced cardiac life support in advanced, life support. Most states have very strict guidelines regarding the administration of anesthesia to ensure patients safety. We as Oral and Maxillofacial surgeons, follow the guidelines set forth by our state regulatory body. By doing so, we maintain a state license that is renewed every year, and all office staff is certified in CPR.

Many patients can have their procedures completed using a local anesthetic to numb the area. For those people wishing to be sedated that they aren't aware of the surgery, IV sedation is offered. Ambulatory anesthesia is the administration of medications in the office that induce either general anesthesia where the patient is totally asleep or sedation where the patient is in a semiconscious state. For patients requiring sedation we are often able to perform procedures in the office to maximize the comfort to the patient and minimize the inconvenience of surgery in the hospital. For those people requiring complete general anesthesia (where the patient is completely asleep) we prefer to perform those surgeries in the hospital setting where the patient is intubated and receives separate care from an anesthesiologist.

During the consultation appointment, your oral surgeon will discuss your medical history and your level of anxiety. Some procedures require the use of general anesthesia or IV sedation, whereas others are best accomplished under local anesthesia. The choice of anesthesia is always a personal decision and should be made only after an informative consultation with the surgeon. After the consult you'll also be given instructions concerning clothing, not having anything eat or drink hours prior to surgery, taking all of your regular medications, and bringing an escort with you in making arrangements for your recovery.

The benefits of anesthesia include a decrease in anxiety and awareness during the surgery. This translates into a nearer or total amnesia of the procedure, lack of noise perception and no pain. It is important to note that patients who are given only local anesthetic to numb the area will only feel occasional pressure.

Safe anesthesia demands the use of several non-invasive monitors that we attach to you. These devices are typically a blood pressure, an EKG (electrocardiogram) and a pulse oximeter (a device that measures the amount of oxygen in your blood). Therefore is suggested that you wear a short sleeve shirt to facilitate the application of these important devices.

It is absolutely necessary for you to have an empty stomach for six full hours prior to any intravenous anesthesia (this includes liquids and water). A patient who becomes sick with a full stomach could present a potentially dangerous scenario of vomiting. You'll require an escort and/or someone to drive you home and stay with you. The medications used for sedation can take a 24-hour period to filter through your stomach. Therefore it is recommended that you DO NOT operate a vehicle or operate machinery for 24 hours after being sedated.

Oral and Maxillofacial surgeons typically use modern short-acting medications designed to give you a maximum of sedation, minimizing recovery time and side effects.

The anesthesia process starts when the monitors are attached to you. An IV will remain in place until after the surgery is over. Although the medications used are short-acting and allow rapid recovery.

Usually patients can walk out of the office within 30 minutes of the completion the procedure. Patients that have IV sedation must have an escort or driver present in the office prior to the beginning of the procedure and his escort will be responsible for driving the patient home.

Depending upon the surgery most patients can return to work the next day. In more extensive surgeries patients may want to schedule the surgery to take advantage of the weekend, holidays or vacation time for recovery.

Oral and Maxillofacial surgeons have advanced training in all aspects of anesthesia and emergency care and are able to offer sedation to make the surgery as comfortable as possible.

We try to stay on schedule to minimize your wait. Because we provide surgical services, various circumstances may alter the time allocated for a procedure. Emergencies also arise and cause delay. We appreciate your patience and understanding.