



Ask The Dentist!

by

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Oral Sedation - IV Sedation And Pain

Q: Dr. C. I am ashamed to say I haven't seen a dentist in years because I am just plain frightened. I went to your website to read about how I.V. Sedation and oral sedation reduce pain. What is the story on these various sedation methods?

A: Firstly, no need to be ashamed, your apprehension is very common. Confusion about sedation dentistry is also widespread. **Oral sedation** has become popular in the past decade to calm patients and works for those with "fears of the dentist". One cannot drive to or from the dental appointment as these medications impair judgment and physical coordination. For patients who truly are phobic (about any kind of medical treatment) oral sedation tablets are often prescribed before an appointment in which intravenous (or I.V. Sedation) is to be used. We use **I.V. Sedation** over oral sedation because it is more precise, more controllable (by us) and much more effective.

With either sedation, you should be monitored by a machine that registers heart rate, blood pressure and oxygen saturation in the blood. I.V. medication is adjusted as you need it to produce a relaxed state. Within seconds the doctor can make sure your sedation needs are met producing a calm relaxed experience which also leaves no memory of the dental work performed.

I.V. sedation can be termed "**sleep dentistry**" but this is a misnomer. Although a patient may seemingly be in a light sleep, it is not the same as a general anesthetic under which one would have an appendix removed. General anesthesia is a forced unconsciousness whereas I.V. Sedation used in dentistry produces a state where the patient's consciousness no longer focuses on their immediate surroundings and the procedures being done. It allows us to do a great amount of dentistry in one sitting particularly for someone who may need a lot of work after not seeing the dentist for many years.

"Freezing" or local anesthetic used to control pain is a separate issue. All procedures done with the aid of I.V. sedation require "freezing". Local anesthetic is a miracle drug. It is the only anesthetic that blocks pain. **General anesthetics** only remove consciousness. When I operate in a hospital and the patient is "**put under a G.A.**" I always place a long acting local anesthetic so that upon "waking" the patient doesn't experience pain, and has time for pain killers to take effect. Science provides many alternatives; it's a matter of us determining which combination is best for you.

We'll address these and any other concerns you have in a **FREE consultation** at the Victoria Implant Centre. Call today for an appointment to meet us, view our technology, and determine if dental implants should be a part of your future!

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