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Nitrous Oxide Sedation: Questions and Answers

Nitrous Oxide Sedation (“Laughing gas”) has been recommended for your treatment.

What is it?

It is a mild sedative gas inhaled through the nose.

How will I feel?

Nitrous Oxide Sedation produces a pleasant, relaxing feeling. It reduces anxiety, sensitivity to pain and gag reflexes. It will not put you to sleep.

How long does it last? Can I drive afterwards?

The sedation only lasts as long as the appointment, and can be stopped at any time. You may drive home after your appointment.

Is it suitable for children?

Children are much more comfortable and relaxed with Nitrous Oxide Sedation. Cooperation of the child is still necessary, but anxiety is greatly reduced.

Will local anesthetic, “freezing”, have to be administered?

Most generally, local anesthetic is still necessary in conjunction with the nitrous oxide sedation on permanent teeth. Smaller cavities in baby teeth can often be done with no freezing.

Any special precautions?

Patients who will be receiving Nitrous Oxide Sedation should have an empty stomach. – No heavy meals within 2 hours please, or 30 minutes for a light snack. Patients who cannot breathe through their nose or older patients with specific lung problems should not receive Nitrous Oxide.

Patients who are going to receive nitrous oxide can not take any anti-anxiety medications (e.g. Valium, Ativan, or Halicon) before the appointment.

What will Nitrous Oxide cost?

The first appointment with Nitrous Oxide will be a *minimum* of \$54.00 and includes up to 30 minutes of sedation. All subsequent appointments are billed at \$27.00 per 15 minutes of Nitrous Oxide Sedation. Some dental insurance plans *do not always* reimburse fully the cost of Nitrous Oxide, even if it makes your visit easier and more pleasant. You may wish to check your coverage to see if it is an eligible expense (Dental code 92412).

Children’s Oral Health Program (MSI) does not cover this fee.