

Giving your child intravenous (IV) sedation for dental treatment

Information for patients, parents and carers

This information sheet explains why and how we give your child intravenous (IV) sedation for a procedure that causes pain. It includes what to expect, the risks and the benefits, and how to help your child recover from the sedation. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the nurse or dentist caring for your child.

Confirming your child's identity

Before your child has a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you to confirm their name and date of birth and check their ID band. If your child does not have an ID band, we will also ask you to confirm their address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check.

What is intravenous (IV) sedation?

IV sedation means that the medication is given through a vein. An extremely thin needle is placed into a vein close to the surface of the skin into either the back of the hand or the arm. The needle is then removed leaving a soft plastic tube in place called a cannula. The sedation medication is given through this plastic tube.

Throughout the procedure, your child's pulse and oxygen levels are monitored by a pulse oximeter. This clips onto a finger and measures the pulse and oxygen levels.

What does it feel like?

IV sedation will not make your child go to sleep. They will feel drowsy and relaxed and will also be able to understand and respond to requests from the clinician. Time will appear to pass very quickly, and most people remember very little of the treatment afterwards. Your child may feel as though they have gone to sleep.

Your child will still have local anaesthetic (an injection in the mouth to numb the area to be treated), but this will not be given until they are sedated.

Why does my child need IV sedation?

Your child needs a procedure during which it is important for them to lie very still. We give them sedation to make sure they are comfortable, do not feel any pain and stay still so the procedure can be carried out safely and successfully.

Which sedative will you give my child?

The medication used is an anti-anxiety sedative drug called midazolam. It will relax your child and reduce their memory of the procedure.

Please make sure you tell the dentist or nurse if your child has had allergic reactions to any sedatives in the past.

Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any operation and some other procedures beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a senior member of staff again.

What are the risks?

- Your child may have odd dreams and may become restless until the effects of sedation have worn off.
- Your child may be agitated or very emotional, but they will return to normal once the sedation wears off.

What are the benefits?

- Your child will be comfortable during the procedure and not feel any pain.

- They will have little memory of the procedure.
- They will lie still during the procedure so it can be carried out safely and successfully.

Before IV sedation

1. The child must attend with a responsible adult who holds parental responsibility for them.
2. Your child can eat. A light meal is advisable before the procedure.
3. Any routine medications taken by the child should be taken at the usual time. If your child uses an inhaler, please bring it with you.
4. Your child should wear comfortable clothing that does not limit breathing or the ability to roll up sleeves.
5. Your child should not wear any nail varnish or false nails.

Can I stay with my child during their procedure?

Please ask if you would like to remain in the room with your child. This will be at the discretion of the dentist undertaking the procedure.

What happens after my child's procedure?

We will observe your child and keep the pulse oximeter attached until they are fully aware of their surroundings.

They may be confused, sleepy or clumsy at first. This is normal and will wear off within about 90 minutes.

When can my child go home?

Your child can go home when they:

- are fully awake
- have returned to their usual level of mobility

How should I look after my child at home?

You must be extra careful when looking after your child for the next 24 hours and supervise them while they play and bathe. Your child may be sleepy when they get home. This is normal and you can let them sleep.

If you think your child's breathing is unusual, wake them gently. If you cannot wake them or something is wrong with how they look or their breathing, call 999 and ask for an ambulance to bring them back to hospital.

Who can I contact with queries and concerns?

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Department of Paediatric Dentistry:

Secretarial team: 020 3299 1681

Clinic appointments: 020 3299 3055

MyChart

Our MyChart app and website lets you securely access parts of your health record with us, giving you more control over your care. To sign up or for help, call us on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.mychart@nhs.net. Visit www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart to find out more.

Sharing your information

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust through the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts share an electronic patient record system, which means information about your health record can be accessed safely and securely by health and care staff at both Trusts. For more information visit www.kch.nhs.uk.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your dentist if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

Tel: 020 3299 4618

Email: kings.pals@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.access@nhs.net