



Nitrous Oxide

To help ensure the comfort of our apprehensive patients, nitrous oxide/oxygen sedation is available. Nitrous oxide/oxygen is a safe and effective technique used to calm your anxiety and to make you or your child's dental visit more comfortable.

Q: What is nitrous oxide/oxygen (laughing gas)?

A: Nitrous oxide/oxygen is a blend of two gases, oxygen and nitrous oxide. It is given through a sterile, latex-free mask that fits snugly over your nose. When inhaled, it is absorbed by the body and has a calming effect. Normal breathing eliminates nitrous oxide/oxygen from the body within minutes. It has been safely used as a mild anesthetic for over a century.

Q: How will I feel when breathing nitrous oxide/oxygen?

A: You will smell a sweet, pleasant aroma and experience a sense of well-being and relaxation. If you are worried by the sights, sounds, or sensations of dental treatment, you will probably respond more positively with the use of nitrous oxide/oxygen. You will always feel in control. Nitrous oxide raises your pain threshold and it may make it seem like time is passing more quickly.

Q: How safe is nitrous oxide/oxygen?

A: Very safe. Nitrous oxide/oxygen is perhaps the safest sedative in dentistry. It is nonaddictive. It is mild, easily inhaled, then quickly eliminated by the body. You stay fully conscious and keep all of your natural reflexes. You will be able to communicate with us throughout the procedure. It can also be individually adjusted to your personal need.

Q: Are there any special instructions for nitrous oxide/oxygen?

A: First, try to have little or no food before the dental visit. (Occasionally, nausea or vomiting occurs when using on a full stomach.) Second, tell us about any respiratory conditions that make breathing through the nose difficult. It may limit the effectiveness of nitrous oxide/oxygen. Third, tell us if you are taking any medication on the day of the appointment.

Q: Is there an additional charge for nitrous oxide/oxygen?

A: Yes, there is a minimal charge. The installation, training, certifications and ongoing maintenance of the system are very expensive. In addition, we must provide extra appointment time in order to setup and breakdown of the equipment used to keep you safe and comfortable.