POND SQUARE DENTAL

INFORMATIONAL LEAFLETS

CHILDREN'S INHALATION SEDATION

What is inhalation sedation?

Inhalation sedation is a sedation method that utilises a gas known as nitrous oxide, which is administered along with oxygen through a small mask placed over your child's nose. This technique is used for children that are anxious about dental work or are undergoing a procedure that might cause discomfort.

What is nitrous oxide?

It is also known as 'laughing gas'. It works as a sedative reducing anxiety, making the child a bit drowsy and less aware of the procedure.

Why does my child need inhalation sedation?

It is a great alternative to the general anaesthetics. It will reduce anxiety and improve your child's cooperation. It is also helpful in children with a strong gag reflex.

Are there any risks or side effects?

Inhalation sedation is safe and effective. The nitrous oxide leaves the child's body as soon as the child stops inhaling it. However, the child may feel tired following the sedation. If local anaesthesia was used, your child might mistake the numb feeling for pain. Reassure them that it is normal and try to distract them.

How to prepare your child for inhalation sedation?

- Your child should eat a light meal up to one hour before the appointment.
- If your child is taking medication, they must take it as usual.

If my child is unwell, can I still bring them?

- Do not come to the appointment if your child is unwell.
- If your child has a cold or cannot breathe through their nose, the sedation may not work.

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Do I need to be present on the day of the procedure?

- You will need to be present during your child's appointment.
- Your child will need your full attention. Please avoid bringing other children with you.

What happens during inhalation sedation?

Inhalation sedation gives a pleasant, warm, tingling sensation and a feeling of well-being. Once sedated, your child will have topical and local anaesthesia to numb the area to avoid pain during the procedure. The length of time your child will be treated will depend on the procedure they are having and how cooperative they are.

What happens after inhalation sedation?

Your child will recover while still sitting in the dental chair.

However, you should monitor them for the rest of the day.

How soon can I take my child home?

You can take them home as soon as they are alert and responsive, which should only take a few minutes.

Can my child return to school?

- Yes, your child may go back to school.
- If an extraction was carried out, your child should not participate in sports or games for the rest of the day as this could cause bleeding.

Can my child eat afterwards?

Your child can drink normally however, it may be better to avoid eating until the numb feeling has gone away.

Additional aftercare will be suggested by the dentist.