



Fairfax
Oral and Maxillofacial
Surgery

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Before Anesthesia

Local Anesthesia with Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas)

This option is for those people who are nervous, but do not want the side effects of anesthesia. A mask is placed over the nose to administer the gas. You are awake and able to communicate to the staff, however, the gas relaxes you and does provide some additional analgesia. Then local anesthesia is administered into the mouth. This option does not require any fasting or special arrangements before surgery.

IV Sedation

IV Sedation is provided in the form of medication administered intravenously (through the arm). Monitors are used throughout the procedure to keep you safe while under anesthesia. IV Sedation is a lighter form of anesthesia, allowing complete relaxation, with fewer side effects than general anesthesia. In addition, sedation usually has a shorter recovery time. With this lighter form of anesthesia, some people may be aware of background noise and activity. However, this remains an excellent choice for anxious individuals who would like "something more than the numbing medications, but are afraid of going all the way to sleep."

This option requires that the patient must have **ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK** for at least six hours before the appointment. It is also necessary for an adult to accompany the patient to the appointment, stay in the office during the procedure, and drive the patient home after the surgery.

General Anesthesia

General Anesthesia, like sedation, is administered intravenously (through the arm). Monitors are used throughout the procedure to keep you safe while under anesthesia. Oxygen is administered through a nasal mask. The depth of general anesthesia is deeper than that of IV sedation. This option is for those people who want to be "completely asleep" for the procedure.

This option requires that the patient must have **ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK** for at least six hours before the appointment. It is also necessary for an adult to accompany the patient to the appointment, stay in the office during the procedure, and drive the patient home after the surgery.