

INFORMED CONSENT DISCUSSION FOR LOCAL ANESTHETIC

Patient name

Diagnosis

Facts for Consideration

- Anesthesia is a matter of degrees on a continuum beginning at a low level called "light" and adjusted to lighter or deeper levels depending on the patient's tolerance for pain and/or response to the drugs used.
- Occasionally, during dental treatment patients cannot understand or cooperate due to psychological or emotional immaturity, a cognitive, physical or medical disability, or fear and anxiety. Under such conditions they may become dangerous to themselves, the staff, and the dentist. In addition to behavior management through communication techniques or immobilization to provide safe delivery of dental treatment, the dentist may also identify the need for a chemical sedation or anesthesia for the patient's comfort and behavior management.
- Patients may require local anesthesia, light to moderate conscious sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia for their comfort during the performance of dental restorations or surgical procedures. Your dentist will recommend and explain to you which type of anesthesia might be appropriate for your individual medical/dental needs.

Local Anesthesia

_____ Anesthetizing agents are infiltrated into a small area or injected as a nerve block directly into a larger area of the mouth with the intent of numbing the area to receive dental treatment.

_____ *Risks, include but are not limited to:* It is normal for the numbness to take time to wear off after treatment, usually two or three hours. However, it can take longer and rarely the numbness is permanent if the nerve is injured. Infection, swelling, allergic reactions, discoloration, headache, tenderness at the needle site, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and cheek, tongue, or lip biting can occur.

_____ *Potential benefits:* The patient remains awake and can respond to directions and questions. Pain is lessened or eliminated during the dental treatment.

Alternative Treatments, Not Limited to the Following:

_____ If a particular level of anesthesia does not relieve the patient's anxiety or pain, in the dentist's clinical judgment and if the individual patient can tolerate it, another level of anesthesia may be needed. Not every dental office or dentist is equipped or trained to administer every type of anesthesia. It may be necessary to bring an anesthesiologist into the dental operator or refer the patient to another facility or to another dentist who has the appropriate equipment or credentials. Those types of services may result in additional charges.

For All Female Patients

_____ Because anesthetics, medications and drugs may be harmful to the unborn child and may cause birth defects or spontaneous abortion, every female must inform the anesthesiologist and dentist if she could be or is pregnant. Anesthetics, medications and drugs absorbed in the mother's milk may temporarily affect the behavior of the nursing baby. In either case, the anesthesia and treatment may be postponed.

For All Patients

_____ I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the recommended method of anesthesia and believe that I have sufficient information to give my consent as noted below.

I give my consent for the use of **LOCAL** anesthesia, as explained above when **Dr. PATEL** determines it is indicated in the treatment of _____ (Patient's name).

I refuse to give my consent for the proposed treatment(s) as described above and understand the potential consequences associated with this refusal.

Patient name

Date

I attest that I have discussed the risks, benefits, consequences, and alternatives of anesthesia with _____ who has had the opportunity to ask questions, and I believe my patient understands what has been explained.

Dentist name

Date

Witness name

Date