

The New Dental Times

Produced for the patients of:
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and
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IV sedation for special situations

In specific dental situations, a technique known as IV sedation allows us to perform important dental procedures while significantly improving the patient experience.

As evident in the name, IV sedation involves medication given intravenously. The effect of this technique is a naturally relaxed and sleepy feeling.

Although the sedation lasts up to several hours, most patients feel they have been under for a much shorter period of time. Afterward, there are generally few, if any, side effects. Patients who are accompanied by an adult can go home soon after the procedures are performed.

IV sedation offers many benefits for dental patients, but it's not called for in every dental situation. The type of sedation we use will be determined by the complexity of the procedure you need, your present health and health history, and your anxiety level with regard to dental work. Once all these factors are considered, we'll let you know if IV sedation is appropriate for you.

About your x-rays...

When we take x-rays, we're looking for several things. First and foremost is decay. X-rays are necessary to check for decay located between teeth that can't be seen with the naked eye. But x-rays don't just help detect hidden cavities, they tell us much more about your teeth.

Extra teeth, missing teeth, teeth that are impacted or that never erupted through the gums are evident on x-rays. Tartar located below the gumline or bone recession that indicates the presence of periodontal disease may also be apparent. Signs of TMJ and bone cancer often reveal themselves in x-rays as well.

You don't need x-rays every time you visit our office, but we do like to take them regularly enough to be sure no problems are missed. Whenever you have x-rays, remember that the amount of radiation you receive is extremely low and that precautions are taken to protect you from even that small dosage.

To seal or not to seal?

Sealants have been criticized; however, the evidence in favor of using them on children's teeth is overwhelming. Several recent studies testing the effectiveness of sealants have had positive results. One study found that 75 percent of children with sealants on their teeth had no cavities, while only about 33 percent of unsealed teeth were cavity-free.

Having sealants applied is similar to having your child immunized. Although tooth decay isn't normally life threatening, it certainly does affect your child's health. And, since sealants have been shown to prevent decay and the need for restorations, they can be cost-effective.

■ Sealants are not always covered by insurance, but a surprising number of plans do pay for them at least in part. Check with your dental insurer to see if this preventive treatment is covered.

We strive to provide the best in patient satisfaction.

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*Here's your
dental newsletter!*

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Take advantage of your benefits

You and your employer pay for you to have insurance benefits, so shouldn't you use the coverage to which you're entitled? As the end of the year approaches, consider whether you've used your benefits wisely, and then decide if you need to schedule a checkup or procedure with us before the new year.

If any of the following statements are true, act quickly to get the most out of your 1998 benefits.

1. I haven't had my regular cleanings and/or dental exams this year. **2.** I haven't had a full set of x-rays in the last two years. **3.** I have loose or missing teeth or fillings. **4.** I recently chipped a tooth. **5.** My teeth are sensitive to hot and cold, and my gums bleed.

These are just a few of the reasons you might want to see us before the end of the year. Others include problems with bad breath, dentures or bridgework, swollen gums, a bad taste in your mouth, or dental work you've been putting off.

A toothpaste that fights gum disease

It's true. A new toothpaste ingredient promises to do to gum disease what fluoride has done to decay—annihilate it. Triclosan—an antimicrobial used in antibacterial products, such as soap—is now being added to toothpaste.

In a study that compared it with regular fluoride toothpastes, the new paste with Triclosan fared significantly better at reducing the amount of plaque and tartar on teeth. It's believed that this will inhibit the growth of the bacteria that cause gingivitis.

The new paste, which contains fluoride as well as Triclosan, looks so promising that the ADA has awarded it the Seal of Acceptance for helping to prevent plaque, tartar, gum disease, and tooth decay. If it's not in your stores already, you should be seeing Triclosan-containing toothpaste in your store aisles soon.

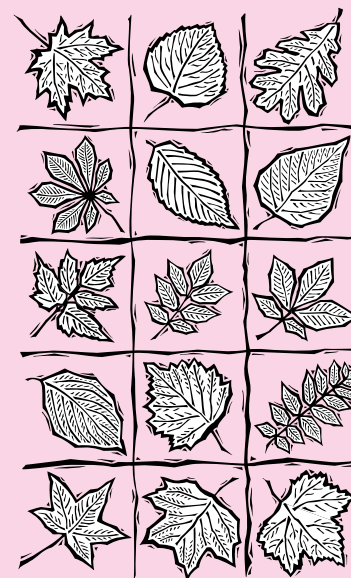
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Office Hours

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Appointment and Emergency

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for dental advice.
For your specific information, be sure to consult our office.