

We are happy to answer any further questions you have.

If you agree to being sedated we will ask you to sign a consent form giving us permission to proceed.

Sedation in the Emergency Department

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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona w innych językach/formatach.

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Sedation

It has been decided to give you a sedative drug as part of your management in the Emergency Department.

Sedation is usually given so that it is more comfortable for you to have a painful or unpleasant procedure done.

Sedation will make you sleepy and less aware of what is happening, but its effects will only last for a short period of time.

It is not the same as a full anaesthetic and you should recover very rapidly.

How we will sedate you

We use a number of different drugs to sedate patients and your doctor will be happy to discuss their choice with you if you wish.

The doctor giving the sedative drug will ask a number of questions to make sure it is safe to proceed. We will want to know when you last had something to eat and drink. Please do not eat or drink anything whilst waiting.

The sedation will take place in our resuscitation room so that you can be closely monitored. We will record your pulse, blood pressure and oxygen levels during the procedure.

We will give you some extra oxygen before, during and after the procedure.

We will place a small tube into one of your veins using a needle (an intravenous line) in order that we can give you the sedative drug.

There will be a minimum of 3 members of staff present - a doctor to give the sedation, another health professional to perform the procedure and a nurse to monitor you.

Risks of sedation

Sedation is a very safe procedure but as most procedures can be done without sedation there are a few uncommon complications you should be aware of. The following is a list of common and serious complications and how frequently they occur:

Common risks

- ♦ Low oxygen levels happens in 1 out of every 25 patients sedated.
- ♦ Vomiting will occur in up to 1 patient out of every 50 sedated.
- ♦ Low blood pressure happens in 1 out of every 100 patients sedated. we will give you fluids and medication to bring your blood pressure up.
- ♦ 1 in 100 temporarily stop breathing. Additional oxygen is given throughout and we can assist your breathing if needed

Serious but unlikely risks

- ♦ If you vomit whilst sleepy, there is a very small chance the vomit can enter the lungs which can cause serious breathing problems. This can happen to one patient in every 1000 sedated. This is why it's important not to eat or drink before sedation and why we try to avoid sedation if you have eaten in the 4 hours before the procedure.
- ♦ Very rarely we may need to put a tube into your airway to take over your breathing for you.