

Moderate Sedation Information for Patients

MODERATE SEDATION: Moderate sedation involves the use of medications to reduce anxiety and pain as well as impair consciousness and memory. As opposed to General Anesthesia, you will be able to breathe on your own, talk, and move. Please note, however, it may not be possible to achieve complete loss of consciousness, amnesia, or lack of sensation with this level of sedation. Medications that will be utilized include Midazolam to reduce anxiety and Fentanyl to reduce pain associated with the procedure. Moderate sedation is administered by a nurse who is overseen by the physician who is performing the interventional procedure.

There is no Anesthesiologist or CRNA involved in administration of moderate sedation.

PROCESS: An IV catheter will be inserted by a staff member in the pre-operative area. Fluids will be infused through the IV and medications for sedation will be given via IV prior to and during your procedure. You will be given supplementary oxygen by nasal cannula or facemask throughout your procedure. Your vital signs (heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and exhaled CO₂) as well as your level of sedation and any adverse effects will be monitored throughout your procedure by a nurse and the physician performing the procedure. If your level of sedation is noted to be inadequate, your physician may choose to administer additional analgesic medications. If your level of sedation is noted to be excessive, your physician may choose to administer medications to reverse the effects of sedation. Additionally, maneuvers such as jaw thrusting and placement of airway devices in your mouth, nose, or throat may be needed if breathing is not adequate. You will be monitored after your procedure by a nurse for resolution of effects of sedation and for any adverse effects. Once you are cleared for discharge, your IV catheter will be removed and you will be sent home with your caretaker.

RISKS: The risks associated with sedation include but are not limited to allergic reaction, aspiration (inhaling stomach contents into the lungs), nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath, respiratory depression, airway obstruction, anxiety, agitation, and confusion. Some adverse effects can persist for hours after sedation including but not limited to dizziness, grogginess, confusion, forgetfulness, headache, nausea, vomiting, dry mouth, itching, urinary retention, and constipation.

In addition to these potential risks, there may be other unpredictable risks of rare complications including anaphylaxis, respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest, heart attack, stroke, brain death, paralysis, or death. Serious Complications may require additional procedures such as positive pressure ventilation, airway placement or intubation, CPR, or administration of life support medications.