



Nitrous Oxide Disclosure

You have the right, as a patient, to be informed about your condition and the recommended surgical, medical, or diagnostic procedure to be used so that you may make the decision whether to undergo the procedure after knowing the risks and hazards involved. This disclosure is not meant to worry or alarm you; it is simply an effort to make you better informed, so you may give or withhold your consent to the procedure.

Introduction

Nitrous oxide (also known as “laughing gas”) is a colorless, odorless gas that is used during procedures for relaxation and anxiety relief. It is opioid-free and non-addictive. When inhaled, it can induce feelings of euphoria and sedation. It also can produce sensations of drowsiness, warmth and tingling in the hands, feet and mouth. It will not induce unconsciousness in the office setting. You will be able to swallow, talk and cough as needed. Sedation with nitrous oxide has limitations and risks, and absolute success cannot be guaranteed. You will be able to rationally respond to questions and directions. For some people nitrous oxide sedation may not calm them adequately to allow a medical procedure to be done. These people may require referral for other sedation techniques.

Nitrous Oxide Drug Interactions



Scan with your phone camera to view.

After the procedure

Recovery from nitrous oxide sedation is rapid. The gas will be flushed from your system with oxygen. If you feel dizzy after the sedation, remain seated and the sensation should pass in a few minutes. Do not leave the office until your head feels clear, and you are able to function (i.e., walk and drive) safely.

Risks of nitrous oxide

You may feel nauseated, dizzy, drowsy or claustrophobic during and after sedation. Sweating may occur during the procedure and you may become somewhat flushed during administration of nitrous oxide. Some patients will talk excessively. Although not common, you may experience shivering at the end of the sedative procedure when the nitrous oxide has been terminated. You may not feel capable of driving after nitrous oxide. If this occurs, we will keep you until you feel better or have you call a friend or cab to ensure your safety.

Alternatives to nitrous oxide

You may choose not to use nitrous oxide and complete your procedure without any treatment for anxiety.