

Moderate Sedation in Interventional Radiology

If you have any questions, please talk with your physician or nurse.

Moderate sedation is a safe and effective option for patients having minor surgery or medical tests. During a procedure, you may receive medications to ease pain, fear and anxiety. The goal is to provide comfort and a prompt, safe recovery.

Before the procedure

In the preparation area, the nurse will put an IV (into the vein) line into your arm or hand. Then, your healthcare team will take you to the procedure room and position you safely on the procedure table. The nurse will connect you to a heart monitor, a blood pressure cuff and a finger probe that monitors oxygen levels. They may place an oxygen tube under your nose. They will inject medication to relax you into the IV. Your healthcare team will care for you and monitor your vital signs and alertness during and after the procedure

During the procedure

During the procedure you may feel drowsy, but you will be awake and able to talk. Your healthcare team will inject numbing medication at the procedure site. This will feel like a burning or pinching sensation like a bee sting. You will be able to feel heat, cold and pressure, but you will not feel sharp sensations after you receive the numbing medication. The healthcare team will talk with you about how you are feeling and keep you comfortable throughout your procedure.

After the procedure

Most patients recover for about 1 hour after moderate sedation. In some cases, the recovery time may be up to 6 hours. During this time, a nurse will check on you often. A friend or family member at least 18 years of age must accompany you home. You cannot drive for 24 hours after you receive sedation. We suggest that this person remain with you for the next 6 hours.

You may have the following side effects for up to 24 hours after you receive the sedation medication:

- Some or no memory of what happened during the procedure
- Headache

- Nausea, vomiting or dry mouth
- Sleepiness
- Lightheadedness or dizziness

If your side effects get worse or do not improve, contact your physician or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

The nurse will talk with you and your support person about the care you need at home.

Follow these instructions:

- Rest for the rest of the day.
- Do not drive or operate machinery for 24 hours.
- Do not make any important decisions for 24 hours.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages for at least 24 hours.
- Do not take other muscle relaxant, sedative, hypnotic or mood-altering medications for at least 24 hours unless directed by your physician.

If you have any questions about moderate sedation or your procedure, please talk with your physician or nurse.