



Sedation

What is sedation?

'Sedation' involves administering medication to help you feel relaxed, calm and slightly drowsy. It is used to make the experience of surgery under local anaesthetic more pleasant for those who require it. If you have sedation, you will probably not remember much of your surgery, although this is not true in all cases.

What is light sedation?

Most patients do not need to be sedated. However, those who do mostly have light sedation. This is a state of relaxation that may include mild drowsiness, but you should be able to be easily roused at all times.

It is important to understand that you will normally be aware, but relaxed, as it is often unhelpful to be too sleepy. You will not be able to see the operation as it happens, and the anaesthetist can give you extra sedation if necessary.

What is deep sedation?

Deep sedation is less common than light sedation. However, for some procedures, the surgeon will want you very sleepy for some part of the

operation. This is usually when they are administering lots of local anaesthetic, which can be uncomfortable. You may be unconscious for a short period.

In most cases where deep sedation is used, the surgeon will want you to wake up during the operation so that you can cooperate with their instructions (e.g. look up, look down). This helps them get the best result possible.

How is sedation given?

The anaesthetist will give the sedation through a drip (i/v cannula) in your hand, and will monitor you throughout the procedure. They will give you more sedation if needed.

Are there any risks with sedation?

All procedures, including sedation, have associated risks. Life-threatening complications can occur, but are extremely rare. You can discuss any specific concerns you may have with your surgeon or anaesthetist.

For more information on your anaesthetic please follow this link:



<http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/patientinfo> or see our more detailed leaflet, 'Anaesthesia explained for Moorfields Eye Hospital'. Friends of Moorfields charity have sponsored a series of information videos about the different types of anaesthetics we use at Moorfields. Please follow this link below:
www.friendsofmoorfields.org.uk/information-videos-about-anaesthetics/

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Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further (see above). For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

