

## Re: Need Help Local prob ... is Halcion the answer??

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Date: Sat, 04 Sep 2004 22:12:05 -0400

Emily wrote:

> *Hi,*  
>  
> *I have a pretty good case of dental anxiety myself. This year I had to have*  
> *two root canals (both with crowns) and a replacement crown, and I elected to*  
> *use oral sedation twice. My dentist uses nitrous oxide and novacaine as*  
> *well during the oral sedation.*  
>  
> *The first appointment, I don't remember a thing until I sorta came to while*  
> *they were working on the last tooth. I felt a little wince of pain (this*  
> *tooth had always been sensitive and hard to numb up; it was an upper tooth)*  
> *so made a noise and pointed, and they quickly gave me another shot (which I*  
> *didn't feel at all), and I dozed back off. No more pain.*  
>  
> *The second appointment, I was not as asleep when I arrived at the office; I*  
> *was very drugged up but still conscious, and when she started working on the*  
> *tooth (a different one), I felt a little something, again made a noise and*  
> *pointed, got another shot, and promptly dozed off for the rest of the appt.*  
> *I have only very vague memories of either appointment, and only a few bits*  
> *here and there, so the amnesiac aspect is there, but not complete (at least*  
> *for me).*  
>  
> *My dentist uses a combination of Halcion with one other medication I can't*  
> *recall now. It's incredibly expensive since she doesn't write a fillable*  
> *Rx, just gives you the meds. You take Valium the night before, then the*  
> *Halcion + other med the morning of the appointment, then someone else drives*  
> *you there and back. Both times I got home and napped for a couple more*  
> *hours after the appointments, and was pretty well wiped out the rest of the*  
> *day. It cost around \$375 each time for the oral sedation (not covered by*  
> *insurance, of course), which is outrageous for three little pills, but in*  
> *light of my anxiety, I was willing to pay that not once but twice!*

Well, I am not prepared to say whether this fee is unusual or not. But you are certainly not paying \$375 for "three little pills"—you are paying for the training, and certification of the dentist, as well as

the knowledge in how to manage your sedation.

Administering sedation used to be fairly uncomplicated administratively, but in some states (New York, for example) being certified in enteral and parenteral sedative use is a pretty involved thing. (I am not certified myself.)

>  
> *However, given the fact that I did feel some pain at both appointments \*even after a shot of novacaine and with nitrous\* and had to request another shot, I cannot imagine getting through the appointments on the oral sedation alone. My pain tolerance is very low, though. Yours might be higher, especially since you've managed to have dental drilling done with only nitrous in the past (I could not do that – never ever). I don't mind the shots nor the after-effects (just numbness for a few hours, nothing long-term like what you've experienced). I just don't want ANY pain from the drill.*

There are two issues, as you've said—*anxiety and pain*. If there is pain, the level of sedation necessary to allow treatment will need to be much deeper.

Back in the dark ages of my residency, even folks undergoing dental surgery under general anesthesia in the operating room got a local.

Steve

>  
> *So...I don't know what to tell you. If you didn't get the after-effects from the needle, I'd say to go for the local since while you're sedated it will not bother you one bit to have the shots, I don't think. I guess it depends on how bad the after-effects are that you get. I wish I could say you'll feel no pain with Halcion, but I can't. I know that \*I\* would feel pain!*  
>  
> *Good luck!*  
> *Emily*  
>  
> *"Synergie" <wlmcDonald@accesswave.ca> wrote in message news:XQo\_c.58708\$vO1.318709@nnrp1.uunet.ca...*  
>  
>>*I have very deep anxiety with dentistry... I still force myself to go, and when I have needed work, I have insisted on the use of nitrous oxide. My fear deals mainly with the needle. I won't let them give me local.... at all! Because of this, I suffered through an appointment of a very deep filling with no freezing, and only nitrous oxide. It used to work better when I was younger, almost knocking me out and making it so I didnt need any freezing. But that last appointment, I felt everything, and was too scared to let them know because I knew they would drag out the needle.*  
>>  
>>*Now to the present.... I need another filling fixed. I didn't want to try the nitrous again as I believe that the last dentist did not use*

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>>enough percentage or something. My current dentist (and I am only  
>>switching dentists because I am in the military and we get who we get)  
>>anyway she doesn't use nitrous anyway and suggested oral sedation, more  
>>specifically Halcion. I have a prescription for .25 mg the night before,  
>>.25 mg an hour before the appt and an extra pill to bring with me in  
>>case I need it. The plan is to do the work with no local at my request.  
>>Do you think that I can handle it under the Halcion without the local?

>>

>>And just for background... the issue with freezing was brought on by not  
>>just fear, but also the fact that every time I ever got it when I was  
>>younger, my jaw would always be very sore afterward, sometimes lasting  
>>several days. The dentist would never listen to me, and always tried to  
>>say it was just because I was holding my mouth open for a long period of  
>>time. But when I switched to just Nitrous, I had no soreness after. It  
>>seems like the soreness is always located right where the injection site  
>>was. The bottom ones were the worst. I would not be able to fully open  
>>my mouth for 3-4 days and had to take mortin etc just to be able to  
>>function. Am I a complete oddball that local affects me this way?  
>>Should I just be 'biting the bullet' so to speak and live with the  
>>soreness after? Because I really am more comfortable with dealing with  
>>the pain of the drilling during the apt than 3-4 days of nagging  
>>soreness after. They think at my dentist office that I am wimp and an  
>>anomaly. I hope that the Halcion puts me out enough to deal with the  
>>pain of the drilling, and I hope it has the amnesic effect that they  
>>told me about.... I don't want to remember the appt.

>>

>>Please someone answer my questions... The appt is still several weeks  
>>away and I am already losing sleep over it.

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