

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

When people are looking for a sedation dentist, they're typically coming in for one of a couple of reasons. So the number one main reason is because they're afraid of the dentist. And that can be because of a previous bad experience as a child or an adult, or that dentist hurt them, or made them feel embarrassed because of the condition of their mouth and they've just avoided care for a long time. So whether it be pain or because they're embarrassed about their smile, that's one.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

And then another would be, if somebody has a lot of treatment that needs to be done and they're a busy professional, then we can actually have them come in and sedate them for the treatment. And we can accomplish a lot of dental work at one time rather than have them come in for multiple visits.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

There are all different types of sedation and ways that we can make a patient feel comfortable, whether it be from laughing gas, let's say, to a combination of oral medication and laughing gas, up to doing IV sedation here for the patients as well, all the way up to having an anesthesiologist come into our office and providing a deeper level of sedation. That's one of the nice things about our practice is that we can help them to accomplish their dental goals.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

Some of the reasons why patients typically don't move forward with sedation dentistry would be fear, fear that the anesthesia is not safe. And from that standpoint, we can assure them that we select our cases very carefully. So we do a thorough evaluation of the patient before we do any dental work on that at all. And then during the procedure as well, after we've made sure they're a safe candidate, the drugs that we use are very safe. And also from a monitoring standpoint, we use the latest monitoring equipment as well to make sure that the patient's breathing properly, that all the vital signs are reading normally as well. And then from the cost standpoint, I think that's probably another reason why people don't move forward. Typically, whenever people put off dental care for so long, they require a lot of treatment. From that standpoint, we've tried to eliminate that barrier by offering them flexible payment options. And we try to make it as comfortable in their budget as possible.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

My favorite part of doing sedation dentistry is really being able to help somebody that has a tremendous fear of the dentist, that has put off dental work for years and years. And now we're able to help them to complete their dental work. That's really rewarding for me because when I first started as a dentist, I would always get comments like, "I just want to be knocked out and put to sleep. Otherwise, I can't do this." So that prompted me to get the proper training and be able to offer that here in our office.