



# Willow Bend Dental

## Consent for Anesthetics Including Nitrous Oxide

This office is pleased to offer local anesthetic, as well as, conscious sedation such as nitrous oxide, commonly known as “laughing gas.”

### What is local anesthetic?

Local anesthetics have been used in medicine and dentistry for over 100 years. Previously called “Novocaine”, local anesthetics, such as lidocaine, are used every day all over the world. They are injected via needles either next to the tooth or next to a nerve bundle to achieve the desired level of numbness.

### What are the risks of local anesthetics?

- Allergies – very few to the anesthetic agents are known. Some are allergic to the preservative inside the anesthetic. A few people are sensitive to an added ingredient called Epinephrine.
- Sensitivity to Epinephrine – Epinephrine is commonly called adrenaline. It is added to constrict blood vessels so that the anesthesia lasts longer. However, Epinephrine causes the heart to beat faster. In some people that are sensitive to or have a weakened heart, this may be a risk factor.
- The needle may hit a nerve causing temporary or permanent numbness.
- Injecting the anesthetic in a vein may cause dizziness, palpitations, or a fainting spell.

### What is Nitrous Oxide?

Nitrous Oxide is a safe, odorless gas that has a calming effect.

### What are the risks of Nitrous Oxide?

- Nitrous Oxide causes the veins to dilate (open) and may give the person a slight headache. This may be countered with a cup of coffee or soda, as caffeine closes the veins.
- Some patients have experienced delirium or excitement. They see things in their mind and the images seem so real that they almost think it was real.
- If the person receives too high a concentration of Nitrous Oxide, the feeling of the room spinning or loss of balance while sitting into the dental chair has been reported. Simply tell the dentist that you are not feeling the calming effect, but feel the opposite.
- Unfortunately, not all people benefit from Nitrous Oxide. Some people have been known to fight the calming effects of Nitrous Oxide, and therefore, derive no benefit from inhaling it.

I understand there may be a charge for the use of Nitrous Oxide. I have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand the above and give consent.

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Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness