

A survey to assess the provision of conscious sedation by general dental practitioners in the Republic of Ireland

Abstract

Aim:

To quantify and qualify how conscious sedation was used in general dental practice before the introduction of formal sedation teaching in the Republic of Ireland.

Objectives:

1. To determine the extent of use of oral, inhalational and intravenous sedation;
2. to determine the training and experience of general dental practitioners providing conscious sedation;
3. to determine the perceived barriers to the practice of conscious sedation; and,
4. to gauge the level of interest in a postgraduate course in conscious sedation.

Method:

Postal questionnaire sent to one general practitioner in seven, selected randomly from the General Dental Council register, in 2007.

Results:

Seventy six percent of respondents agreed that the provision of conscious sedation in general dental practice is important. However, the current provision of inhalation and intravenous sedation by respondents is low in comparison to provision in the UK. The main barrier to the use of conscious sedation in general dental practice appears to be lack of availability of training.

Conclusions:

The data from this study indicated the need for postgraduate training in conscious sedation in Ireland and a need for increased awareness of the Dental Council Code of Practice on sedation.

Journal of the Irish Dental Association 2011; 57 (2): 99–106

Veronica Fisher

Lecturer in Oral Surgery
Dublin Dental School and Hospital
Lincoln Place
Dublin 2

Professor Leo FA Stassen

Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial
Surgeon
Dublin Dental School and Hospital
Lincoln Place
Dublin 2

Professor June Nunn

Professor of Special Care Dentistry
Public and Child Dental Health
Dublin Dental School and Hospital
Lincoln Place
Dublin 2

Address for correspondence:

Dr V Fisher
Department of Oral and Maxillofacial
Surgery
Dublin Dental School and Hospital
Lincoln Place, Dublin 2
Tel: 01-612 7314
Email: VFisher@dental.tcd.ie