

## HIV, HAART and dentistry: what you need to know

**Précis:** Following a call for more education in this area and radical changes in the management of the condition, this paper presents an update on HIV disease, treatment and the practical implications of this condition for general dental practitioners.

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# The practice of conscious sedation by Senior Dental Surgeons in the Health Board Dental Service in the Republic of Ireland

**Precis:** This questionnaire survey showed that conscious sedation techniques are used to a very limited extent in the Health Board Dental Services. The main barrier to their use is the lack of training opportunities.

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## Abstract

**Objective:** To establish the nature and extent of the practice of conscious sedation by Senior Dental Surgeons in the Health Board Dental Service (HBDS) in the Republic of Ireland and to determine the barriers to the use of conscious sedation.

**Design:** Postal questionnaire survey.

**Setting:** The Health Board Dental Service in the Republic of Ireland in 2002. **Subjects and Materials:** Questionnaires were sent to fifty-five Senior Dental Surgeons working in the HBDS.

**Results:** Fifty questionnaires (90.9%) were returned. Less than a quarter of Senior Dental Surgeons reported current sedation use in their area. Oral sedation was the most commonly used method with few using relative analgesia and less using intravenous sedation. Forty percent of Senior Dental Surgeons surveyed reported receiving training in conscious sedation as an undergraduate. Nearly 60% of those surveyed reported using conscious sedation in a previous employment. All respondents said the main barrier to the use of conscious sedation in the HBDS was the lack of training opportunities on the subject in Ireland.

**Conclusions:** Conscious sedation techniques other than oral, are used to a very limited extent in the HBDS in Ireland. There is great interest amongst Senior Dental Surgeons in the increased use of conscious sedation techniques. A lack of training opportunities is the main barrier to the expansion of their use.

## Key words:

inhalation sedation, health boards, senior dental surgeons.

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## Endodontic diagnosis: clinical aspects

**Precis:** This paper highlights the difficulties associated with obtaining an accurate diagnosis of pain of tooth origin and knowing what is going on in the tooth pulp.

**Abstract:**

The objectives of this article are to review classic and current concepts on endodontic diagnosis, to describe the current classification of the pulp and periradicular diseases and to present and discuss the diagnostic tools available for endodontic diagnosis. The "SOAP" approach to endodontic diagnosis is a very efficient and simple method to accomplish accurate diagnosis. SOAP serves as a mnemonic to guide the clinician in data collection and stands for: *Subjective, Objective, Assessment, and Plan*.

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