

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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