




The history of pain and anxiety control in dentistry



Joseph Priestley



Humphrey Davy



Horace Wells

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1771 **Oxygen** discovered by Joseph Priestley.
- 1772 **Nitrous Oxide** discovered by Joseph Priestley.
- 1779 **Humphrey Davy** discovers some of the effects of Nitrous Oxide
- 1840s **Horace Wells**, a dentist employed Nitrous oxide as an anaesthetic.
William Morton used Ether as an anaesthetic.
- 1889 **Nitrous oxide** analgesia used for cavity preparation on teeth at the **Liverpool Dental Hospital**.
- 1936 **Dr. Harry Langa** in the USA began using Nitrous oxide analgesia. He was later to write the standard textbook on Inhalation Sedation.
- 1961 **"Jorgensen technique"** reported, which used the cocktail of IV Phenobarbitone, Pethidine and Hyoscine to produce "fully conscious tranquility". Prolonged recovery was the problem with this technique.
- 1960s **Intermittent methohexitone**, "ultra light" anaesthesia was developed by Drummond Jackson primarily for restorative dentistry. This was basically a GA technique rather than sedation.

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- 1963 **Diazepam** first synthesized by Leo Sternback and was first manufactured by Hoffmann-La Roche and launched in 1963
- 1965 **Temazepam** was patented in 1965 and went on sale in the United States in 1981.
- 1976 **Midazolam** came first into use in 1976 "It is on the WHO's list of essential medicines the most effective and safe medicines needed in a health system" Wikipedia
- 1988 Flumazenil went off patent in 2008 so at present generic formulations of this drug are available. IV flumazenil is primarily used to treat benzodiazepine overdoses and to help reverse anaesthesia.
- 1990 **Poswillo Report** published The Report in 1990 made over health effects during dental treatment, including treatment under general anaesthesia. The recommendations included the following areas: standards of dental anaesthesia practice; 50 recommendations aimed at reducing the risk of death or adverse equipment and facilities; training; inspection and registration of premises
- 1992 **GDC** agrees, "to do its utmost to see the principal recommendations of the Poswillo Report are carried forward".
- 1993 **RCS** Guidelines for Sedation by Non-Anaesthetists published
- 1996 **RCS** Report of the Joint Faculties Working Party on Sedation.

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- 1996 **GDC** issues new guidelines for the practice of sedation
- 1998(Nov) **GDC & RCA** Cessation of GA services in General Dental Practice
- 1999(May) **GDC** Amended narrative to "Maintaining Standards" document Resuscitation Pain and Anxiety Control followed by guidelines on GA.
- 2000(July) **"A Conscious Decision"** CMO/CDO Review on GA and Sedation in Dentistry
- 2003 **Standing Dental Advisory Committee — Conscious Sedation in the Provision of Dental Care**
- 2006 **A Scottish version published SDCEP** "Conscious Sedation in Dentistry"
- 2007 **SDAC report — Standards for Conscious Sedation in Dentistry: Alternative Techniques**
- 2012 **Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme 2nd Edition** "Conscious Sedation in Dentistry"
- 2015 **Standards for Conscious Sedation in the Provision of Dental Care** The Faculties of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons and the Royal Colleges of Anaesthetists
- 2017 **Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme 3rd Edition** "Conscious Sedation in Dentistry"

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