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Role of conscious sedation in dentistry

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Management of pain in dentistry is a challenge that every dentist has to face. Use of local anesthetics has brought about a limit to the amount of pain that a patient has to endure, however pain is mostly precluded by fear and anxiety towards the procedure and the resultant pain and discomfort that one may have to face. To overcome this, the use of general anesthesia is employed very often. However due to many of the drawbacks of the use of general anesthesia, newer techniques like the conscious sedation are being employed. The following review highlights some of the advantages for the use of conscious sedation over general anesthesia. Conscious sedation has become an increasingly important subject in recent years. Its use in dentistry for reconstructive surgery, some cosmetic surgeries, removal of wisdom teeth, or for high anxiety patients has been documented, however it is still not widely accepted in day to day practice. It helps establish communication between dentist and patient which is important for establishing trust, easing a patient's pain, and allowing them to feel they are in control of procedure. The aim is to provide a safe and comfortable anesthesia while maintaining the patient's ability to follow commands.

Biography

Ruchita Shah is an MPH Candidate of University of North Texas Health Science Center, USA.

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