

## WHAT IS INTRAVENOUS SEDATION?

New advances in intravenous sedation have made endoscopic tests such as EGD and colonoscopy painless. At **The Midwest Endoscopy Center, LLC**, your doctor will administer medication through an intravenous catheter during your exam. The purpose of the medication is to make you comfortable during your procedure and afterward in recovery.

We use a form of sedation called intravenous sedation. This allows the patient to be pain-free during the procedure, intravenous anesthesia relieves the stress and anxiety almost always associated with any medical procedure. Consequently, this form of sedation will leave the patient with little or no memory of the procedure. In fact, at the conclusion of most tests, patients usually ask, “When are you going to start?”

### **Monitoring**

Safety during your intravenous sedation is of utmost importance to us. We utilize a number of sophisticated monitoring devices and techniques to assure your well-being. Most of these devices are more precise extensions of your own senses, so we must process certain information in order to make your procedure safe.

You will probably become aware of certain devices placed on your body prior to “going to sleep” that will monitor your responses during your procedure.

These devices are:

**Blood pressure cuff-** it measures your blood pressure at frequent intervals during your anesthesia. This may be tight on your arm for a few seconds about every 5 minutes. The first time is the tightest as the machine senses your normal blood pressure range.

**Pulse oximeter-** a device placed on your finger, toe, or earlobe that measures the amount of oxygen in your body at all times and in addition displays your pulse rate.

**EKG (electrocardiogram)** A constant picture of your heart tracing is displayed on a monitor screen for us to see. Small electrodes may be placed on your chest or back to gather this information for the EKG machine.

### **Will it take very long to recover from intravenous sedation?**

No, most of the time, patients wake up very quickly after their procedure. The patient is not allowed to drive home. Judgment can be affected by medications and it is important for the patient not to drive, operate dangerous equipment or sign any legal papers for 24 hours after receiving any medication for sedation.

In summary, these monitoring techniques improve the safety of the administration of your intravenous sedation allowing your test to be as painless and safe as possible.