Nitrous Oxide Use in Dental Care

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to nitrous oxide?

- Nitrous oxide is on the Proposition 65 list because it can cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Women exposed to nitrous oxide may experience reduced fertility. Exposure during pregnancy may cause loss of pregnancy and birth defects.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about exposures to listed chemicals.

What is nitrous oxide?

Nitrous oxide, commonly known as “laughing gas”, is a gas used in combination with other gases to ease pain and anxiety during certain dental procedures.

How does exposure to nitrous oxide occur during dental care?

- Dental patients breathe in nitrous oxide when it is used in a dental procedure.
- Nitrous oxide can pass to the unborn baby when it is given to a pregnant woman during a dental procedure.

How can I reduce my exposure to nitrous oxide during dental care?

✔ Talk to your doctor or dentist about anesthetic options other than nitrous oxide in planning for dental work.
✔ Maintain good dental health.

For more information:

Nitrous Oxide in Dental Offices Fact Sheets and Resources:

- US Department of Health Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Controlling Exposures to Nitrous Oxide During Anesthetic Administration: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/94-100/
  - Control of Nitrous Oxide in Dental Operatories: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/94-129/

Dental Oral Health:

- California Dental Association (CDA)
  - Oral Health Fact Sheets (38 fact sheets in six different languages): http://www.cda.org/public-resources/patient-fact-sheets
Nitrous Oxide:  
http://www.cda.org/Portals/0/pdfs/fact_sheets/nitrous_oxide_english.pdf

Proposition 65:
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)  
  Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - Proposition 65: Background  
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq
  - Proposition 65: The Chemical List  
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals