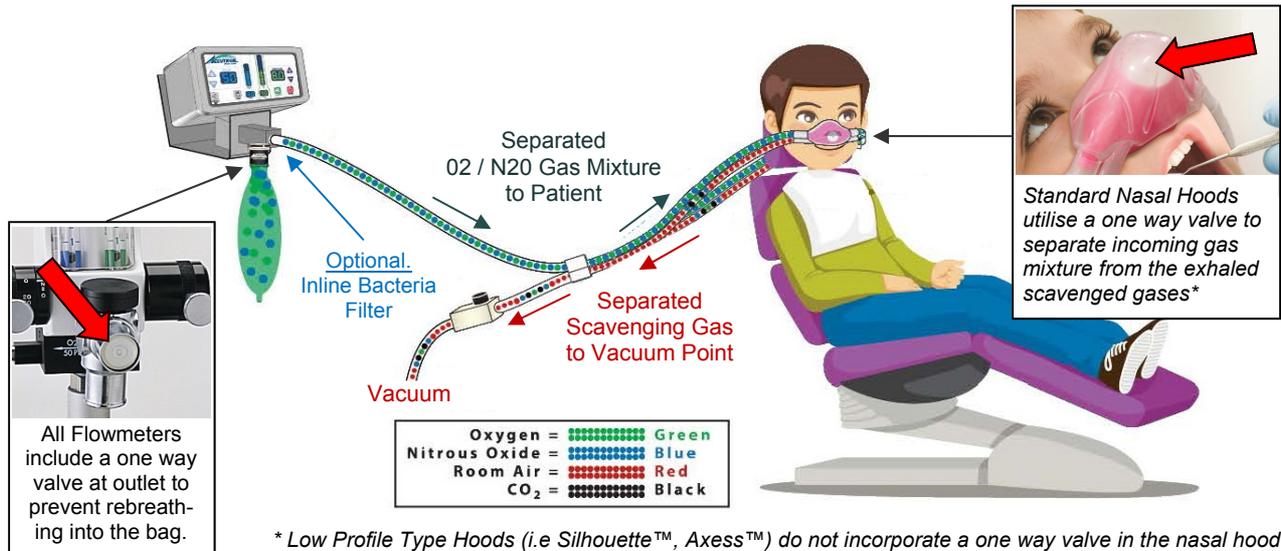


Information

Precautions for use when administering Relative Analgesia using Nitrous Oxide/ Oxide in a Dental Surgery Environment

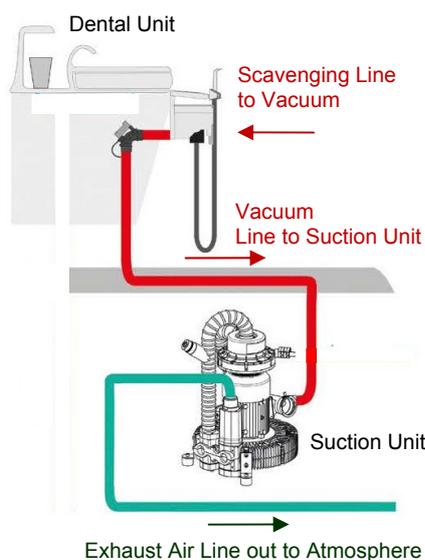
In the current operating environment within the COVID-19 pandemic, there are a number of conflicting advisory instructions for the use of Relative Analgesia using Nitrous Oxide/ Oxide in a Dental Environment, particularly in regards to the scavenging line for removal of exhaled gas mixture from the operatory. Please note the following:

When using a continuous flowmeter blender (examples being Accutron™, Matrx™, & Porter™ brand units) with a standard scavenging nasal hood and tubing circuit, the administration circuit has the following characteristics.



As a result, it's important to recognise the modern scavenging type circuits are expressly designed to prevent patient rebreathing into the incoming gas mixture, with the scavenging line removing the exhaled gases away from the operatory.

Vacuum Pathway after Scavenging



For the Scavenging Gases, the vacuum line removes the exhaled gases to the suction unit where it is exhausted to the outside atmosphere as mandated by AS2686-1984 & AS2986-2011.

The use of proper scavenging with O₂/N₂O based Relative Analgesia **removes** the patient's exhaled gas mixture (and potentially any pathogens within) to the outside atmosphere away from the operatory.

This would not occur under any other form of pain/anxiety relief.

Conclusion

Given the characteristics of a correctly configured patient administration circuit and equipment installed to the relevant Australian Standards, the use of O₂/N₂O based Relative Analgesia is acceptable where

- The patient administration tubing is processed for sterilisation as per the manufacturer's instruction after every patient use.
- An inline bacteria filter is placed with the incoming O₂/N₂O gas line from the flowmeter to the patient **
- A single use scavenging nasal hood **with** an incorporated one way valve is utilised.
- The scavenging line is always connected to an adequate vacuum point throughout the period of patient administration.
- Suction Line cleaning solution is utilised after every procedure with O₂/N₂O based Relative Analgesia

** this is a precautionary measure