

4.4.1 Principles of pharmacological pain management

Pharmacological methods of procedural pain management are interventions that deal with the uses, effects and mode of actions of analgesic agents. Pharmacological interventions commonly used for procedural pain management include topical anesthesia, analgesics, anxiolytics and amnesic agents (which may have a sedative effect). Examples of common pharmacological agents currently used in procedural pain management are provided in the table below:

Anaesthesia	Analgesics	Anxiolytics	Amnesics	Sedatives
Topical (local)	Fentanyl	Midazolam	Nitrous Oxide	Chloral hydrate
Inhaled (N₂O)	Nitrous Oxide	Nitrous Oxide	Midazolam	