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Alexis Peterson

Jana O’Rourke

Pain Management

10/11/2021

Nitrous Oxide Case Study:

Patient with respiratory infection for the past couple of days

A respiratory infection is an infection that may interfere with normal breathing. It can affect just the upper respiratory system, which starts at the sinuses and ends at vocal chords, or it can affect just the lower respiratory system, which starts at the vocal chords and ends at the lungs, or it could affect both. Any upper respiratory infection that causes blockage of the nasal air passages will, of course, restrict the ability to administer nitrous oxide analgesia. Any nasal obstruction will severely restrict the patient's ability to breathe through the nose. Since nitrous oxide analgesia must be administered through a nasal mask/hood, this is an absolute contraindication.

In addition, coughing makes it difficult for the dentist to accurately regulate the nitrous

