

Anaesthetic Consent

Family Name:
Given names(s):
Address:
Date of birth:

Your Anaesthetist is a medical specialist, managing your anaesthetic care and initial recovery after surgery. Unfortunately, complications of anaesthesia may occur, even with the best of care. Most complications occur in patients with a pre-existing illness or have a history of anaesthetic problems.

Anaesthesia can be divided into three forms, general, regional or sedation.

GENERAL ANAESTHESIA (GA)

In general anaesthesia drugs are given to produce a state of unconsciousness (asleep) so that you will be unaware during your surgery.

Common Side Effects

Bruising at the needle site
Sore throat and dry lips
Nausea and vomiting
Fatigue and sleep disturbance

Uncommon Side Effects

Persisting hoarse voice (days or weeks)
Prolonged nausea and vomiting (hours to days)
Post-operative breathing problems
Damage to lips, tongue, eyes, teeth or to dental work
Pins and needles or weakness from pressure on nerves in the arms, legs or face
Aspiration pneumonia [inhaling the contents of the stomach into the lungs]
Muscle aches and pains
A severe allergic reaction to drugs

Rare Side Effects

Death
Awareness [being awake under anaesthesia]
Equipment failure leading to complications
Heart attack, stroke, paralysis
Hyperthermia [uncontrollable increase in temperature]

REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA

This is where needles are used to numb a part of your body. Spinal and epidural anaesthetics are common examples. (That is where needles into the back can numb the legs and abdomen).

Common Side Effects

Bruising at needle site
Mild back ache for a few days.
Low blood pressure, especially during spinal or epidural anaesthetics.

Uncommon Side Effects

Pins and needles in limbs, that may last for days or weeks, that eventually go away
Severe headaches [after spinal/epidural anaesthetic]
Overdose of the local anaesthetic drug used.
Allergic reaction

Rare Side Effects

Death
Seizures or epileptic fit.
Major nerve damage which may be due to direct nerve damage from the needle, a blood clot or infection.
Paralysis due to spinal cord damage, again from the needle, a blood clot or infection.

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SEDATION ANAESTHESIA

Drugs are given to make you sleepy so that you are not aware of uncomfortable procedures. Sedation is often used in endoscopy and small surgical procedures such as cataract operations.

Common Side effects

Bruising at needle site
Memory loss for a short period of time after the procedure
Nausea

Uncommon Side Effects

Vomiting
Bruised or swollen lips
Headaches
Damage to teeth

Rare Side Effects

Death
Aspiration pneumonia [inhaling the contents of the stomach into the lungs]
Allergic reactions to drugs

The above list does not cover every complication that may occur. Your anaesthetist will see you before your operation to discuss any concerns you have. Please note here any issues you want to discuss.

REMEMBER

1. If you are having day surgery, an adult should accompany you home and stay with you for the first night. Do not drive a vehicle, make important decisions, use dangerous equipment, sign legal documents or drink alcohol for at least 24 hours.
2. Stop smoking and never smoke for 24 hours before an anaesthetic.
3. You can print this form and bring it to the hospital if you wish to talk to your anaesthetist before signing the consent

I have read the above consent form and have had the opportunity to discuss the anaesthetic and my concerns with the anaesthetist to my satisfaction. I understand I may be asked to complete a survey about my anaesthetic experience. My anaesthetic record and related notes may be reviewed for quality assurance purposes. If this occurs my right to privacy will always be protected.

Date: _____

Patient Name: _____

Signature: _____

or Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Relationship: _____