

Anaesthesia Information

General Anaesthesia

Introduction

In general anaesthesia, you are unconscious and have no awareness or sensations. It can be carried out using medical gases through a mask, endotracheal tube or other airway devices, or using intravenous drugs through a vein. A combination of both gases and intravenous drugs is most commonly used. During anaesthesia, you are carefully monitored, controlled and treated by the anaesthetist, who uses sophisticated equipment to track your major bodily functions. The duration and level of anaesthesia are calculated with constant adjustments as needed to ensure a smooth and uneventful surgery. At the end of the operation, the anaesthetist reverses the process and you will regain awareness and consciousness in the recovery room.

Outcomes

Generally, you will sleep and not feel any pain during the operation or the surgical procedure in order to relieve your feeling of embarrassment, fear and anxiousness.

Possible Risks and Complications

Common:

1. You may feel tired, drowsy, nausea or even vomiting.
2. Allergic reaction to drugs (Major reactions occur in less than 0.01%).
3. Pressure is added to limbs and other body parts as the patient is lying completely still under anaesthesia and it can result in numbness. The consequent results such as skin redness, ulcers, nerve damage and even blindness may be experienced.
4. Gum injuries, dental injuries or even sore throat may be resulted after intubation. Loose tooth or fixed denture may increase the risk of intubation.
5. Inadequate fasting time increases the risk of aspiration pneumonia, which can be fatal if severe.
6. Awareness during the surgery (less than 0.3% of the cases).
7. Elderly gentlemen may experience urinary retention after certain procedures.

Less common:

1. Chest infection
2. Heart Attack
3. Stroke
4. Death (rare)

** The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all operations are carried out with utmost professionalism and care this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising. In the event of peripheral organ damage or post-operative haemorrhage or leakage, further operations and longer time of anaesthetic may be required.

Pre-anaesthesia Preparations

1. The anaesthetic procedure and possible complications will be explained by the anaesthetist and a consent form must be signed prior to the anaesthesia.

2. No food or drink six hours before the anaesthesia.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification

