

INFORMED CONSENT FOR ANESTHESIA

Your doctor has requested that you or your child have an anesthetic for your procedure or surgery. All anesthetics, except for local anesthetics, will be administered by an Anesthesiologist or Nurse Anesthetist under an anesthesiologist's supervision. Occasionally an anesthesiologist will be requested to be with you during a procedure performed under local anesthesia in order to monitor your vital signs and possibly provided additional medications to make you comfortable.

The anesthesiologist is a physician specialist who will decide which anesthetic to administer based on your health, personal desires and surgical needs. The anesthesiologist is responsible for maintaining an adequate level of anesthesia, monitoring your vital signs, and administering intravenous fluid and/or blood as required during your surgery.

All anesthetics are powerful drugs and all have possible life threatening complications. In addition there are risks from blood transfusions or other drugs such as antibiotics that may be given by the anesthesiologist.

In most cases you will be given a general anesthetic, a regional anesthetic or combination thereof.

A general anesthetic is given by injecting medications through an intravenous catheter into the blood stream and/or by inhalation of anesthetic gases. The anesthetics produce unconsciousness, loss of pain, loss of protective reflexes, and in some cases, temporary muscle weakness. Frequently in smaller children, inhalation anesthesia is administered via a mask prior to placing an intravenous catheter. In most general anesthetics the anesthesiologist will assist or control your breathing.

A regional anesthetic is the administration, via a needle or catheter, of local anesthetics. The local anesthetic then causes numbness, loss of some or all muscle control and dilation of blood vessels. Examples of regional anesthetics include spinal, epidural and peripheral nerve blocks. Frequently, intravenous sedatives will be given with the regional anesthetic.

Serious complications are rare. They include shock, high fever, seizures, permanent brain damage, paralysis, nerve damage, severe pneumonia, heart, liver, or kidney damage and death. Risks depend on the type of procedure and anesthetic and health of the patient. Risks increase with extreme age, obesity, smokers and serious medical problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure, lung, liver, and kidney impairments, allergies, medications, alcohol and drug abuse. Estimates of fatal outcomes from anesthesia are: adults, 1 in 200,000 = (.0005%) – 1 in 300,000 = (.0033%), age less than 1 year, 1 in 10,000 = (.01%) – 1 in 25,000 = (.004%).

The most frequent side effects include prolonged drowsiness, fatigue, disorientation, loss of appetite, agitation, dizziness, headaches, backache, dry mouth, chilling, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, soreness, bruising or redness at injection sites and muscle aches. These are temporary and some can be alleviated by other medications.

Less frequent side effects include prolonged drowsiness, fatigue, disorientation, loss of appetite, agitation, dizziness or rashes. Procedures to ensure adequate breathing during anesthesia may result in unavoidable damage to teeth, caps, bridges, lips and tongue.

If you are pregnant, you should know that it is highly unlikely that anesthetics cause birth defects or complications of pregnancy. However, to be absolutely safe, your surgery should be delayed, if possible, until after the baby is born.

Some surgeries and medical conditions require more extensive monitoring such as:

- Arterial line (placing a catheter in an artery)
- Central venous pressure line (CVP) a catheter placed in a vein that leads into the upper chamber of the heart.
- Swan Ganz catheter (which goes into vein and is passed into the circulation or the lung).

These entail additional risks such as bleeding, infection, loss of limb, heart or lung damage, stroke or nerve damage.

For your safety, it is important that you abstain from all food and drink after midnight before your procedure or as instructed by your doctor. Bring medications with you as you may be instructed to take them before surgery.

It is very important that you understand the risks for the administration of anesthesia recommended to you so that your agreement or consent to this procedure is an informed consent. The choice of whether or not to receive this treatment is yours.

It is also important that any questions you ask about this procedure and the risk of this procedure are answered to your satisfaction by the doctor. Do not hesitate to ask the anesthesiologist any questions you may have about the anesthesia procedure. If there are any alternative or other treatment options to this procedure it is important that you generally understand the options as well as the risks of that option or alternative.

ASSIGNMENT OF PAYMENTS

I hereby authorize release of information and payment of the medical benefits otherwise payable to me by any and all medical benefit plans or medical insurance policies.

I am signing this informed consent to acknowledge or agree that I have been told and understand (1) the general nature and purpose of the recommended procedure; (2) the risks of the procedure; (3) my options or alternatives; and (4) the risks of the options. All of the questions I asked about the procedure or options have been answered to my satisfaction. I give my consent to the procedure.

I am signing this assignment of payments with full knowledge and understanding. Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.

X _____
Patient signature, or if patient lacks legal capacity to consent, signature by person who has legal authority to consent on behalf of patient. If so, the relationship to the patient is _____.

TO ALL PATIENTS

This is a consent form for the anesthesia which will be given to you as a part of your surgery. You will be interviewed by a physician anesthesiologist prior to your operation. During this time, the doctor will make an appropriate assessment of your general health, answer any of your questions and help you choose the best and safest anesthetic possible.

Fees for professional services are based on local standards. However, individual insurance policies may vary as to the extent to their coverage. You will be held responsible for any balance due on your account.

If you wish to speak to an anesthesiologist before admission he/she can be reached by calling 214-6214 and ask to speak to an anesthesiologist.

Thank you,

Department of Anesthesiology