



## About Your Anesthesia

An anesthesiologist is a specialized doctor who gives anesthesia. You will meet with your anesthesiologist on the day of surgery. He or she will discuss your plan of care and recommend the anesthesia suited for you and your operation.

There are different types of anesthesia and your doctor will select one based on your health and the type of surgery you are having.

### **Types of anesthesia:**

#### **General anesthesia**

With general anesthesia, you will be completely asleep for your surgery. You will be given medication so you can go to sleep. You will stay asleep for the surgery with medications through your IV and with gas that you breathe. When the medicines are stopped at the end of surgery, you will then wake up.

#### **Regional anesthesia**

With regional anesthesia, a specific part of your body will be numb by use of medicine to block the nerves. The medicine may be given in your back (as spinal or epidural anesthesia) or near the nerves where the surgery is being done. This may be the best choice for the type of surgery or your health condition. Frequently, medications are given in addition through IV to make you relaxed or sleepy.

#### **Local anesthesia**

This type of anesthesia will numb only a small area such as part of your hand or foot. This medication is injected into the small area requiring surgery so you will not feel pain. You are awake with this type of anesthesia.

**□ Local anesthesia with IV sedation**

Many surgeries can be done by the surgeon injecting the area with a local anesthetic medication to numb that specific area. In addition you will be given medication through your IV to make you relaxed or very sleepy to minimize your stress during the surgery. You will be comfortable but not completely asleep.

People have different reactions to anesthesia. **It is very important to tell us if you have had problems with anesthesia in the past. Especially if you or a relative have Sickle Cell Disease, Malignant Hyperthermia or problems with muscle relaxants.** The most common reaction is nausea and vomiting. It is important that you follow the information you are given about not eating or drinking before surgery and which of your regular medicines you should take before surgery. If you do not receive instructions from a Health Care Provider, take your morning medications with a small sip of water.

Please let us know if you have any special dental caps, appliances, partial bridges or loose teeth. Leave all jewelry at home. We recommend that you remove nail polish and makeup before coming for surgery.

For additional information you may visit our website at “[anesgrp.com](http://anesgrp.com)”