

Mackay Memorial Hospital

Anesthesia Information Form

Please read carefully

This form explains the benefits and risks of the anesthesia you are about to receive, we wish for you to fully understand the information provided. If you have any queries regarding any part of the anesthesia, please discuss with your doctor before signing the consent form and your doctor will gladly answer your questions.

Anesthesia Benefits

The anesthesia will assist the surgery or examination to be performed smoothly, relieve you of the pain and anxiety during surgery, and help to maintain your physiological stability.

Anesthesia Risks

No anesthesia is completely without risk. Known potential risks are listed below, but there may be other unpredictable risks that are not listed. For those undergoing anesthesia, whether general anesthesia or regional anesthesia, there is a possibility that the listed side effects or complications may occur.

1. For patients with (or underlying) heart and vascular disease, there is an increased chance of having a heart attack during or after surgery and anesthesia. (The risk of patients with a previous history of heart attack experiencing another heart attack perioperatively are: Within 3 months = 37%, 3 to 6 months = 16%, over 6 months = 5%)
2. For patients with (or underlying) cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease, there is an increased chance of having a stroke. Patients taking anticoagulation medication and are required to stop the medication for surgery, are at risk of having a heart attack or stroke.
3. Patients with a lung infection, may have difficulty coughing up sputum after anesthesia, and are at increased risk of developing pneumonia.
4. Patients with chronic lung disease (such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema) may have acute deterioration of their lung condition after surgery and anesthesia.
5. Anesthesia risks are increased in patients with worsening medical conditions, shock, in elderly patients with circulatory failure (or other serious systemic illnesses), and may need to be transferred postoperatively to the intensive care unit for further treatment.
6. Patients undergoing emergency surgery, have eaten without informing the doctor, or have increased abdominal pressure (such as intestinal obstruction, pregnancy) may vomit during anesthesia. This may cause breathing problems and aspiration pneumonia.
7. During general anesthesia, an airway tube or breathing device will be inserted into your airway to maintain your breathing. This procedure may cause injury to your teeth, gum, lips and oral mucosa. Also, there is a possibility of

teeth coming loose, postoperative sore throat, voice hoarseness, throat injury, or glottis stricture.

8. In cases where the airway tube is inserted through the nostrils, there is a chance of developing nosebleeds postoperatively.
9. Patients undergoing spinal or other regional anesthesia techniques, may develop backache or headaches. On rare occasions, short-term or long-term nerve injury may occur (Incidence 0.015%).
10. Long periods of anesthesia (such as during microscopic surgery or other major surgeries), there is an increased risk of postoperative sore throat, voice hoarseness, throat injury, and glottis stricture. There is a chance of developing pressure sores or nerve injuries during long procedures or specific positions for surgery.
11. Malignant hyperthermia may occur in genetically susceptible patients after exposure to an anesthetic triggering agent (Currently there is no appropriate preoperative testing for this underlying genetic disease).
12. An incidence of 0.2% is reported for the occurrence of awareness during general anesthesia.
13. Some invasive procedures are required during surgery (arterial line, central venous catheter, pulmonary arterial catheter, transesophageal echocardiogram, epidural catheter, fiberoptic assisted endotracheal tube intubation). Although rare, these procedures carry with them risks such as pneumothorax, hemothorax, heart arrhythmias, air embolism, blood clots, hematoma, infection, or necrosis.
14. When waking from an anesthesia, patients may experience varying degrees of wound pain, shivering, nausea, vomiting, high or low blood pressure, or arrhythmias. Very few will develop difficulty breathing, cyanosis, altered consciousness, or abnormal electrolyte imbalances.
15. Adverse reactions to blood products and medications can lead to unpredictable allergic reactions (such as bronchospasm, shock).
16. Other adverse reactions to anesthetic medications. For example allergic or toxic effects of local anesthetics.

All of the above adverse effects and complications will be treated immediately and closely monitored. When necessary, other medical specialties will be involved in the continual treatment of the conditions.

Change in anesthetic technique

During the course of surgery, some anesthetic techniques may need to be altered to accommodate the surgery. Your anesthesiologist will adjust as necessary (for example spinal anesthesia changed to general anesthesia).

- If you have any queries regarding any of the above information, please discuss with your doctor before signing the consent form.
- If you have fully understood the above information, please sign the anesthetic consent form.