



ANESTHESIA & OTHER INFORMATION

GENERAL ANESTHESIA

- When general anesthesia is used, you will be sound asleep and under the care of your anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist throughout the operation. Once you are settled on the operating table, you will be connected to several monitors and an intravenous catheter. A quick-acting sedative will be given through the intravenous tubing after you have breathed pure oxygen for a few minutes. Once you fall asleep, your anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist will usually slip an endotracheal tube through your mouth into your windpipe to guarantee that your breathing is unimpeded. As anesthetic gas that you will breathe and other medications that will be given through the intravenous catheter will keep you asleep and pain free.
- Many patients have instinctive fear of general anesthesia. Extremely sensitive monitors used during surgery have greatly reduced the risks of anesthesia. A minute change in the oxygen level in your blood, in the amount of carbon dioxide you breathe out, in the percentage of anesthetic gas being administered, in your heart rate, or in your blood pressure would be reported immediately. Most complications of anesthesia in the past have occurred because of "simple" problems that were not recognized quickly enough. The sophisticated monitoring now used makes recognition and treatment of problems with anesthesia almost immediate.
- The anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist spends all of his or her time during the procedure ensuring your safety. Any significant changes in blood pressure, heart rate, or other vital functions are treated immediately.
- The current level of sophistication of anesthesia monitoring equipment makes general anesthesia much safer than in the past. The anesthesia and monitoring equipment is routinely maintained and is of the same quality as the equipment in any major hospital. Your anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist will discuss the specific risks of general anesthesia with you before your surgery.