

POST STREET SURGERY CENTER:
CONSENT FOR ANESTHESIA

A physician specialist, the Anesthesiologist, who is fully responsible for your anesthetic care during surgery, today will administer your anesthesia. An IV will be started in your non-surgical arm to facilitate medication administration. He/She will be with you throughout your procedure to administer medications and monitor all vital signs (i.e., blood pressure, pulse, EKG, and oxygen saturation). This role is distinct from the surgeon's responsibilities during this period.

GENERAL ANESTHETIC

DESCRIPTION: During general anesthesia you will be unconscious. To begin, the Anesthesiologist will give you medications through an intravenous (IV) line. Once unconscious, you will breathe anesthetic gases and/or be given IV medications to keep you unconscious. The Anesthesiologist may place a breathing tube or airway device into your mouth/windpipe if necessary to aid in breathing.

BENEFITS: Patients do not feel, hear or see anything during surgery. You wake up in the recovery room, after surgery is complete. **RISKS:** Problems that occasionally occur in patients are sore throats, hoarseness, a drop in blood pressure, recall, nausea, vomiting, numbness of the extremities, or inability to urinate. These are usually temporary.

LOCAL ANESTHESIA WITH IV SEDATION ("MAC" Monitored Anesthesia Care)

DESCRIPTION: With intravenous sedation, you will be made comfortable, relaxed or asleep. To begin, your Anesthesiologist will administer sedation medication(s) through an IV. You may also be given oxygen to breath. The surgeon will administer the local anesthetic into your surgical site, once the Anesthesiologist has adequately sedated you. Rarely, a General Anesthetic may be necessary to complete the surgery. If this is necessary, it will be administered at the discretion of the Anesthesiologist.

BENEFITS: Faster recovery, less drugs for the body to metabolize, less incidence of nausea, sore throat, or inability to urinate.

RISKS: Problems that occasionally occur in patients are nausea, vomiting, numbness of the extremities, or inability to urinate. These are usually temporary.

REGIONAL ANESTHETIC (Spinal, Nerve Block, Epidural)

DESCRIPTION: Regional anesthesia is appropriate for surgical procedures below the waist or to provide enhanced pain relief after surgery. Spinal or Epidural anesthesia involves a needle or special tube being inserted through the skin of the back until it enters the spinal column. Medication is then injected around the spinal cord. Sedatives can be given during the procedure. A nerve block is performed by placing a needle close to the nerves that supply sensation and movement to the arms or legs and is usually performed with electrical stimulation.

BENEFITS: Complete post-procedure pain relief, until the spinal, nerve block, or epidural wears off. Faster recovery, less drugs to metabolize, less incidence of nausea, or sore throat.

RISKS: Problems that may occur with spinal or epidural are headaches (1 in 1 000), nausea, drop in blood pressure, numbness of the extremities, temporary incontinence, bleeding and infection at the site of the needle. These are usually temporary. Nerve blocks may cause bleeding, infection, nerve injury or temporary seizures.

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➤ **Major Complications During General Anesthesia**

- 1. Miscellaneous drug reactions (antibiotics, etc)
- 2. Airway obstruction (suffocation) from vomiting or other causes
- 3. Breakage of teeth from anesthesia instruments. Lip injury, lost dentures.
- 4. Excessive bleeding or blood transfusion reaction.
- 5. During pregnancy, dangers to the baby (NOTE: many of the medications used in general or regional anesthesia have not been proven to be safe OR unsafe for the fetus in known or undetected pregnancies.
- 6. Heart attack (coronary)
- 7. Stroke (cerebral vascular accident)
- 8. Eye damage
- 9. High unexplained fever
- 10. Coma
- 11. Death

➤ **Major Complications After General Anesthesia**

- 1. Prolonged nausea and vomiting (more common after general anesthesia)
- 2. Weak breathing requiring artificial respirator
- 3. Delayed recover from anesthesia (hours)
- 4. Sore Throat or hoarseness
- 5. Cough
- 6. Inflamed or tender veins or bruises
- 7. Backache
- 8. Aching muscles
- 9. Skin rash
- 10. Abdominal swelling (distention)
- 11. Difficulty urinating
- 12. Liver failure or hepatitis
- 13. Kidney failure
- 14. Collapse of lung or part of lung, pneumonia or lung abscess
- 15. Blood clot in lung
- 16. Peripheral nerve damage
- 17. Damage to fingers after insertion of needle in the artery
- 18. Death

➤ **Major Complications During Regional Anesthesia (Nerve Block, Spinal, Epidural)**

- 1. During pregnancy, dangers to the baby
- 2. Rise or fall in blood pressure, with rapid heart beat
- 3. Nausea and vomiting
- 4. Broken needles, plastic tubes (may break at the placement sites)
- 5. Convulsions from reactions to drugs
- 6. Total paralysis (anesthesia), temporary or permanent; nerve injury
- 7. Death
- 8. Infection

➤ **Major Complications After Regional Anesthesia (Nerve Block, Spinal, Epidural)**

- 1. Headache, double vision
 - 2. Backache
 - 3. Abdominal swelling (distention)
 - 4. Difficulty urinating
 - 5. Muscle spasms
 - 6. Inflamed nerves(neuralgias)
 - 7. Temporary or permanent nerve damage or paralysis
 - 8. Infection
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