

General Anesthesia

After the procedure

When surgery is complete, the anesthesia medication is stopped, and you slowly wake – either in the operating room or the recovery room.

How you will prepare for general anesthesia?

- Fasting is usually necessary starting about six hours before your surgery.
- Take your regular medication with small sips of water during your fasting time.
- You will be instructed about your medication intake.
- If you have sleep apnea, discuss your condition with your anesthesiologist.

Anesthesia safety

Before your surgery:

- Follow all the instructions you have been given regarding how long not to eat or drink before your procedure.
- Make sure your doctor knows what medication and drugs you take. This includes over-the-counter medication, herbs, supplements, alcohol or other drugs. You will be asked when those were last taken.

After your surgery:

- Have an adult family member or friend drive you home after the procedure.
- For the first 24 hours after your surgery:
 - Do not drive or use heavy equipment.
 - Have someone stay with you, if possible. They can watch for problems and help keep you safe.



Pre- Admission Anesthesia clinic

- ☎ Hamad General hospital: 44391388
- ☎ Ambulatory Care Centre: 40263748

Patient and Family Education

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General Anesthesia

What is general anesthesia?

General anesthesia is a state of unconsciousness with the absence of pain sensation coupled with muscle relaxation over the entire body. This occurs through the administration of anesthetic drugs (usually a combination of intravenous drugs and inhaled gasses).



Anesthesia tools and medication

You will likely have:

- Intravenous anesthetics put through an intravenous catheter into your bloodstream.
- Inhalation anesthetics which you breathe into your lungs, where they pass into your bloodstream.
- A pulse oximeter attached to the end of your finger. This measures your blood oxygen level
- Electrocardiography leads (electrodes) are small sticky pads on your chest. These record your heart rate and rhythm.
- A blood pressure cuff. This reads your blood pressure.

- Oxygen may be given to your child through a face mask or through a tube into your nose or mouth.
- Analgesics (painkiller medication) will be administered for discomfort as needed.

What do you expect after receiving general anesthesia?

Total unconscious and loss of feeling in all parts of the body

How is general anesthesia injected?

- Intravenous (IV) anesthetics are given through an intravenous catheter.
- Sometimes you may be given a gas that you breathe from a mask.
- A muscle relaxant could be included to ensure deeper paralysis, especially if your operation involves major organs.
- The anesthesiologist inserts a tube into the wind pipe through the mouth to ensure that you get enough oxygen with or without an anesthetic agent and protects your lungs from aspiration.
- You will continuously be monitored and your medication, breathing, temperature, fluids and blood pressure will be adjusted by anesthesiologist as needed.
- As surgery ends, the anesthetic is discontinued.



What are the complications and risks?



Very common Management

- Nausea and vomiting
- Sore throat
- Dizziness and headache
- Possible damage to the lips or tongue (usually minor)
- Medicine can be given to make you feel better.
- Gets better after a few hours.
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- Medicine can be given to make you feel better.

Uncommon Rare / Very Rare

- Chest infection
- Damage to teeth
- Awareness (becoming conscious during your operation)
- Damage to the eyes including loss of vision
- Heart attack or stroke
- Serious allergy to drugs
- Death