

EAR SCIENCE SURGERY

Ear, hearing and skull base surgery specialists

INFORMATION ABOUT ANAESTHESIA

The pre-anaesthetic consultation is important as it gives us the opportunity to review your medical history and any potentially complicating factors, request investigations if necessary, and plan accordingly. Appropriate choices of anaesthetic and management of post-operative pain will be discussed. You are encouraged to ask questions relating to anaesthesia.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED TO DISCLOSE

- Your general health and medical history, both past and present
- Any history of chest pain, heart palpitations, leg clots (deep vein thrombosis), fainting, shortness of breath, wheezing or seizures
- Any previous surgery and anaesthesia including any minor or major complications
- Allergies or reactions to medications, tapes, antiseptics, latex rubber or fruit (avocado and kiwi fruit)
- Any serious anaesthetic problems in blood relatives
- Medications you are currently taking, including any non-prescription treatments
- Consumption of cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs
- The existence of loose teeth, caps, bridges, plates and dentures
- Whether you have a hiatus hernia or heartburn (reflux) at night or when bending over
- Some surgical procedures may necessitate blood product transfusion. If you have any reservations please discuss these, as alternatives to blood transfusion may be possible.

FASTING ON THE DAY OF SURGERY

Fasting is essential to prevent the dangerous complication of regurgitation during anaesthesia. If you are scheduled for morning surgery please do not eat after midnight. Fluids may be allowed early in the morning, but your anaesthetist will advise you of this. If you are scheduled for surgery after 1pm, you may have a light breakfast at 7am. Consumption of clear fluids (juice, water, tea or coffee with minimal milk) may be continued until 10am. Regular medications should be taken in the usual manner, and your anaesthetist will inform you of any exceptions.

PRE-MEDICATION

Pre-medication tablets or injections may be given to reduce anxiety and make you sleepy just prior to surgery. It is your choice whether or not to have a “pre-med”.

SAME DAY SURGERY

The anaesthetic or sedation does not wear off immediately and so a responsible adult must accompany you home after the operation and stay with you overnight. During the 24 hours following anaesthesia it is advisable to not drive (insurance companies are not obliged to cover claims made for accidents during this period), operate machinery, drink alcohol, make major decisions or take part in activities which are dependent on full concentration or judgement.

ANAESTHETIC FEE (private patients only)

The fee for your anaesthesia is separate from the fees charged by the surgeon and hospital in which the service takes place and any other doctors caring for you. This fee has been calculated according to the Australian Medical Association List of Fees. It is determined by the complexity of the procedure, the health of the patient, and the duration of anaesthesia. Depending on what private health insurance you have there is often a gap between the actual anaesthetic fee which you are required to pay and the amount reimbursed from Medicare and private health insurance. Please discuss the fees with your anaesthetist.

Reference: Dr Richard Bougher, Specialist Anaesthetist, Metropolitan Anaesthesia.

CONTACT US

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