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Patient & Family Information

Having a Procedure Under

General Anesthetic

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Welcome to Children's Hospital!

As you begin to prepare for your procedure and anesthetic, you may find that you and your family have questions about coming to the hospital. "Having A Procedure under General Anesthetic" was written to help you know more about what you will see, hear, and feel during your visit.

We hope that you and your family will share this information together. Talking about the pictures and reading the information together can help you explore your thoughts and feelings about the anesthetic.

If you have questions, please write them down and share them with your nurse, doctor, child life specialist and/or other hospital caregivers. We will make every effort to help make your experience a positive one. You may quietly read stories in bed until it is time for the nurse to carefully remove the IV. Soon it will be time to go home.

NOTES:

An IV tube is placed in the vein on the hand or in another part of the body using a needle.

The needle helps to insert the IV tube and then the needle is removed from the tube. The medicine is then placed into the IV to help you fall to sleep quickly: it only takes about 2-3 minutes.



You will be in a deep sleep during the procedure. You will not feel, hear or see anything.

After your procedure is finished, a hospital caregiver and an anesthesiologist will move you to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) where you will wake up from the deep sleep.

Your nurse or anesthesiologist will check your blood pressure, breathing, and heart rate.



The oximeter and IV will still be on your body. Cool air may be blowing on your face through a clear plastic mask. The air can help you breathe more comfortably.

Later a member of your family will be invited to your bedside. Once the nurse feels that you are ready, they will move you in your bed to the Post-Operative Day Surgery area. The nurse will offer a drink of juice or a Popsicle and help take care of you.

REGISTRATION:



At patient registration, you will receive a plastic wrist band with your name, doctor's name and hospital identification number on it. You will then go to the waiting room until they are ready for you.

MEETING THE NURSE:

A nurse will greet you and your family to review your health history and provide information about what to expect during your stay.



Your height, weight, temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, and breathing will be checked.

You will finish getting ready for your procedure by changing into the hospital pajamas. Your family can help you get into bed.



A hospital caregiver will introduce himself or herself to you and your family and bring you to the procedure room on a bed with wheels. Your family will be in the waiting room during your procedure.

Outside the procedure room, there is a large sink where hospital caregivers wash their hands to prevent the spread of germs and bacteria.



THE PROCEDURE ROOM:

It may feel cool in temperature. A nurse may offer you a blanket for comfort, warmth, and privacy. You may notice that the bed is high and narrow. There is also a large machine called an anesthesia cart.



YOUR PROCEDURE:

You may watch as the hospital caregivers place monitors on you body. These monitors will help the doctors know how you are doing during the procedure.

