

# Your Guide to Anesthesia At Mercy Medical Center

## Anesthesia Care Team

Anesthesiologists are physicians educated as wither medical (MD) or osteopathic (DO) doctors who have completed 4 years of anesthesia residency. Many have additional fellowships in specialized areas such as pain management or critical care.

Anesthesiologists are primarily responsible for the patient's safety and well-being before, during, and after surgery. The anesthesiologist may delegate patient monitoring and appropriate task while maintaining overall responsibility for the patient. The anesthesiologist is also responsible for fluid and blood replacement, when necessary.

Other members of the Care Team include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) who are RNs who have a master's degree in nurse anesthesia and Anesthesia Assistants (AA) who have met pre-med requirements in their college degree and have a master's degree in anesthesia.

## Preoperative interview

Anesthesia and surgery affect your entire system, so it is important for your anesthesiologist to know as much about you as possible. During a preoperative visit, an anesthesiologist will carefully evaluate you and your medical history and will inquire about your recent prescription and over the counter medications, vitamins, and herbal supplements. In addition, this physician will inform you about the procedures associated with your surgery, discuss the anesthetic choices, their risks and benefits, order appropriate laboratory tests, and prescribe medication for you, if needed, before your operation.

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*You will meet your anesthesiologist immediately before your surgery who will review your medical chart for a clear understanding of your needs and medical condition.*

## Types of anesthesia

There are several types of anesthetic techniques available for your surgery. The anesthesia technique recommended will depend on several factors. In some cases, the surgical procedure will dictate what kind of anesthesia will be needed. There are four anesthetic options:

- **General anesthesia –**

This anesthetic choice produces unconsciousness so that you will not feel, see, or hear anything during the surgical procedure.



The anesthetic medications are given to you through an intravenous line, through an anesthetic mask, or by a breathing tube.

- **Regional anesthesia –** This technique produces numbness with the injection of local anesthesia around nerves in a region (or part) of the body corresponding to the surgical procedure. Epidural or spinal blocks anesthetize the abdomen and both lower extremities. Other nerve blocks may be done with the nerves in the arms or legs to anesthetize individual extremities. With regional anesthesia, medications can be given that will make you comfortable, drowsy, and blur your memory.

- **Monitored anesthesia care –** With this approach, you usually receive pain medication and sedatives through your intravenous line from your anesthesiologist. The surgeon will also inject local anesthesia into the skin, which will produce additional pain control during and after the procedure. While you are sedated, your anesthesiologist will monitor your vital body functions.

- **Local anesthesia –** The surgeon will inject local anesthetic to provide numbness at the surgical site. In this case, there may be no anesthesia team member with you.

## Eating or drinking before surgery

As a general rule, you should not eat or drink anything after midnight before your surgery. Under some circumstances, you may be given permission by your anesthesiologist to drink clear liquids up to a few hours before your anesthetic. If you smoke, please refrain.

## Medicines before surgery

Some medications should be taken and others should not. It is important to discuss this with your anesthesiologist. Do not interrupt medications unless your anesthesiologist or surgeon recommends it.

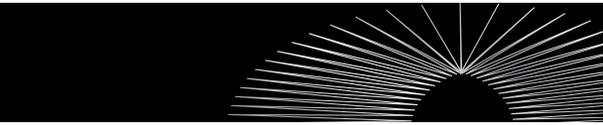
## Anesthesia side effects

The amount of discomfort you experience will depend on a number of factors, especially the type of surgery. Pain can be relieved after your surgery with medicines. Your discomfort should be tolerable, but do not expect to be totally pain-free.

Nausea and vomiting may be related to anesthesia, the type of surgical procedure, or postoperative pain medications. Although less of a problem today because of improved anesthetic agents and techniques, these side effects continue to occur for some patients.

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*Medications to minimize postoperative pain, nausea and vomiting are given by your anesthesiologist during the surgical procedure and in recovery.*



## After surgery

Your anesthesiologist continues to be responsible for your care in the recovery room, often called the post-anesthesia care unit where your condition and vital signs are monitored as the effects of the anesthetic wear off. Your anesthesiologist will determine when you are able to leave the recovery room.

## Age risk and Anesthesia

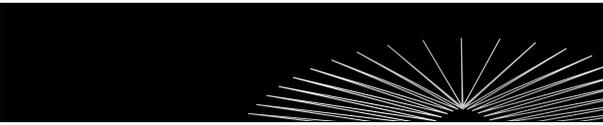
All anesthetic techniques have some risks associated with them. More important than your age are such factors as your medical condition and your type of surgery.

## Patient awareness under general anesthesia

This is a rare condition that occurs when surgical patients can recall their surroundings or an event- sometimes even pain-related to their surgery while they were under general anesthesia. Under certain conditions including trauma or emergency situations using a deep anesthetic may not be in the best interest of the patient and awareness may not be completely avoidable. Patients should share with their anesthesia professional any problems that they may have experienced with previous anesthetics. It is crucial that the anesthesiologist know all medications, whether prescription, over the counter, herbs, vitamins, alcohol or mood altering drugs, in order to safely formulate a patient's anesthesia plan.

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*To help reduce the chance of patient awareness under general anesthesia, we utilize the BIS Monitor and follow the depth of anesthesia during your surgical procedure.*



## Anesthesia Billing

Stark County Anesthesia, Inc. is a founding affiliate of Ohio Anesthesia Group, Inc. Depending on your insurance, you may receive a bill from under either entity. Our office staff will work with you or designated family member prior to your surgery to collect any needed billing information and to make special arrangements needed to secure payment for our professional services.

Depending on the requirements of your insurance company, the professional fees for your anesthesia may be split between members of our Anesthesia Care Team. If a CRNA or AA assisted the anesthesiologist during your surgery the services on your bill from us and your explanation of benefits from your insurance may reflect the services of both an anesthesiologist and the CRNA or AA. This is not a duplicate charge or a double payment. The correct total amount of charges or payments is split between the two providers. If you have a co pay due, it is also split between the two providers.

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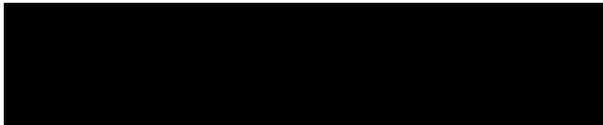
*Should you have questions about your professional anesthesia bill please contact our billing office directly at 1-800-222-1442.*

Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact our office directly if you have any questions whether billing or medically related either before or after your surgery.

## Stark County Anesthesia, Inc.

4665 Douglas Circle NW Suite 100  
Canton OH 44718  
Phone: 300-499-5700  
Fax: 330-498-4229

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