



Anesthesia

During surgery, you will be given some form of anesthesia -- medicine administered for the relief of pain and sensation during surgery. An anesthesiologist determines the type and dosage of anesthesia and then administers it during surgery. You will meet with the anesthesiologist before the procedure.

Type of anesthesia	How Administered	Breathing Tube	Used in Abdominal Surgery	Provide Pain Relief After Surgery	Potential Side Effects
Epidural	Via epidural catheter	Rarely	Usually in combination with General Anesthesia	Yes	Catheter displacement, bruise at insertion site, headache
General	Usually combination of inhaled & intravenous medications	Always	Yes	No	Nausea, vomiting, sore throat, fatigue, dry mouth

About your anesthesiologist:

Anesthesiologists are physicians who are trained to administer and manage anesthesia given during a surgical procedure. They are also responsible for monitoring and treating changes in breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure during surgery.

Before surgery, the anesthesiologist will evaluate your medical condition and formulate an anesthesia plan based on your physical condition. The anesthesiologist will also conduct a preoperative interview on the day of your surgery. During this time, he/she will inform you about what to expect during your surgery. It is vital that the anesthesiologist know as much as possible about your medical history, lifestyle, and medications. Some particularly important information he/she needs to know includes:

- **Reactions to previous anesthetics**
- **Pre-existing Medical Conditions:** diabetes, asthma, heart problems, arthritis, etc.
- **Known allergies:** medications, food, seasonal
- **Recent and/or current prescription and over-the-counter medications:** herbal supplements, aspirin, all prescriptions
- **Social Habits:** Cigarette smoking, drinking alcohol, and recreational drug use, as these can interfere with anesthesia and affect healing