

SpeakUp™: Anesthesia and Sedation



What is anesthesia?

Anesthesia is the use of drugs to prevent pain during surgery or other medical procedures.



What is sedation?

Sedation is the use of drugs to relax you and may be used with anesthesia.

Types of anesthesia

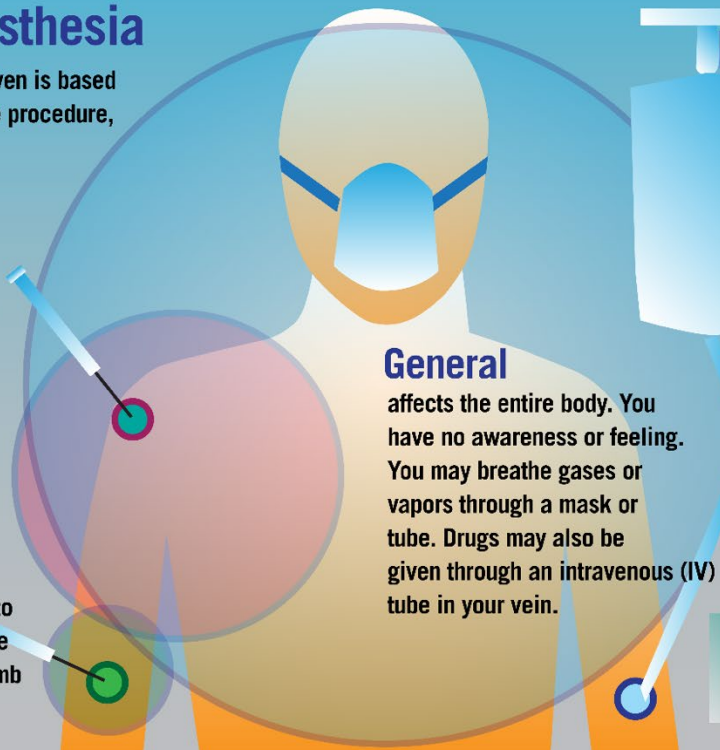
The anesthesia you are given is based on your health, history, the procedure, and your choices.

Regional

produces a loss of feeling to a specific region of the body. A shot is given to numb the area that requires surgery.

Local

produces a loss of feeling to a small, specific area of the body. A shot is given to numb the area.



General

affects the entire body. You have no awareness or feeling. You may breathe gases or vapors through a mask or tube. Drugs may also be given through an intravenous (IV) tube in your vein.

Effects of sedation

Relaxed and awake.

You can answer questions and follow directions.

Relaxed and drowsy.

You may sleep through much of the procedure. You may hear sounds and voices around you. You can be easily awakened when spoken to or touched.

Drowsy to lightly sleeping.

You may have little or no memory of the procedure. Your breathing slows and you may be given oxygen. You may sleep until the drugs wear off.

www.jointcommission.org

Resources

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists: www.aana.com

American Society of Anesthesiologists: www.asahq.org

The goal of Speak Up™ is to help patients become active in their care.

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