

# Anesthesia Information

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about anesthesia. If you have other questions, you will be able to talk to your anesthesiologist the day of surgery or may arrange to speak to a member of the anesthesia staff by calling your surgery scheduler.



IOH Pre-Operative Room at Northwest facility.

Your anesthesiologist will talk to you and your family prior to surgery. You should ask your anesthesiologist about any risks that may be associated with your surgery.

## Can I Choose my Anesthesiologist?

IOH has 14 board certified anesthesia doctors on staff. If you request a certain IOH anesthesiologist, we try to honor your request but cannot guarantee that doctor because of schedule changes and emergency surgeries.

## Are There Different Kinds of Anesthesia?

Yes, and the type of anesthesia you get depends on your surgery, your surgeon and your health. The most common types of anesthesia at IOH include:

- General Anesthesia: you are given medication through your IV or may be given an inhaled (gas) anesthetic so that you are completely asleep during the entire surgery.
- Monitored Anesthesia: you are given medication through your IV that will make you sleepy during the procedure and you may be given a nerve block to numb your arm or leg for your surgery.
- Local Anesthesia: only the area being worked on is injected with a numbing medicine.

## Are There Risks to Anesthesia?

All surgeries and anesthesia have some small risk which depends on your health and the type of surgery you are having. You should ask your anesthesiologist about any risks that may be associated with your surgery.

## Why is My Medical History So Important To The Anesthesia Doctor?

Your anesthesiologist needs to know about all of your medical conditions, as well as any problems you've had with anesthesia in the past so they can plan the best anesthesia care for you during your surgery.

## Why Can't I Eat or Drink Before Anesthesia?

It is important to keep your stomach as empty as possible to protect your lungs during and after surgery.

## Do I Have to Stop Smoking or Drinking Before I Have Anesthesia?

Cigarettes, alcohol and street drugs can change the way an anesthetic medicine works during surgery. Please provide accurate information so we can provide you a safe anesthetic experience.

## Are There Any Side Effects From Anesthesia?

Some patients may experience nausea, a minor sore throat or muscle pain lasting a day or more after general anesthesia. Please contact your anesthesiologist or surgeon if any of these symptoms last more than one week after surgery.