



Epidural and spinal blocks involve injection of local anesthetics and/or narcotics (pain medications) just outside of or within the cerebrospinal fluid, providing loss of sensation at the surgical site or helping reduce the pain after surgery. These blocks are commonly used for labor pain, cesarean sections, and major abdominal and joint surgery. This method is commonly used in conjunction with general anesthesia.

General anesthesia during surgery allows you to be unconscious; it prevents pain, and ensures minimal or no movement during the surgical procedure. It is most commonly provided by giving you IV (intravenous) medications causing a deep “sleep-like” state, during which you will be unaware of pain and your surroundings. After you have reached an unconscious state, a breathing tube will be placed for your safety.

In addition, pain medications will be given to allow decreased levels of pain in the recovery phase. The breathing tube will be removed before you wake up. As the anesthesia drugs wear off, you will begin to regain consciousness.

Our goal is to provide the best possible anesthesia care to all of our patients before, during and after your surgery. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your anesthesia care, please contact our nursing staff immediately so we may address them.

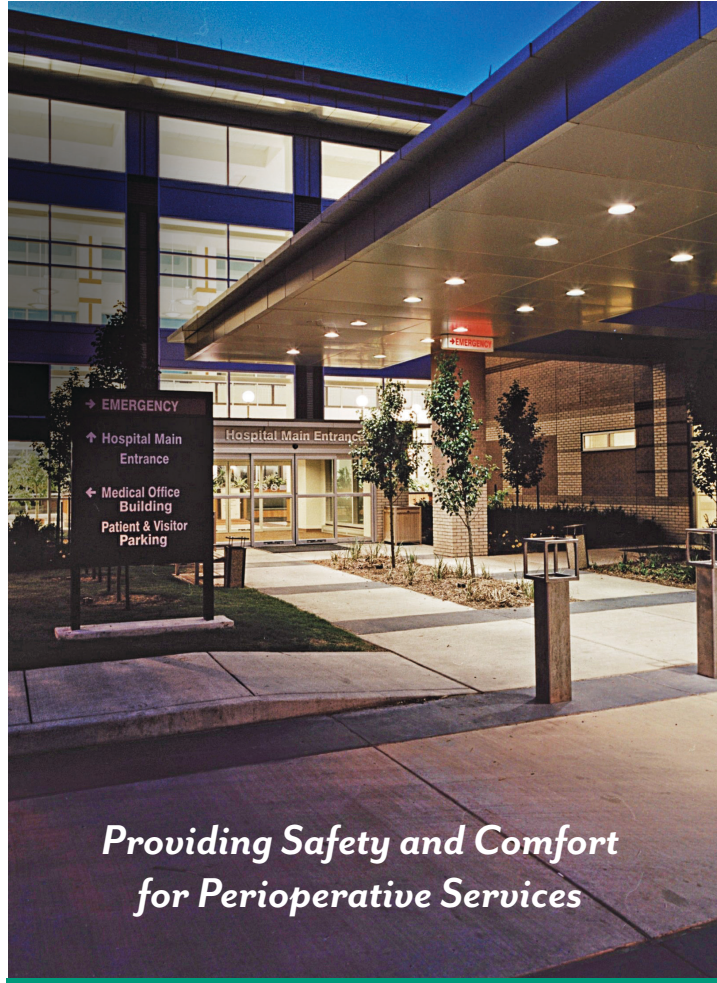
For Billing Questions

877-649-7812

**Department of Anesthesiology
Pre-admission Testing Department**

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Patient’s Guide to Anesthesia



*Providing Safety and Comfort
for Perioperative Services*



Canadian Valley Hospital

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Canadian Valley Hospital

integrisOk.com

An anesthesiologist will take care of your anesthesia needs throughout your surgical procedure. All of our anesthesiologists are board certified/board eligible, licensed medical doctors who specialize in the treatment of pain and in providing the various types of anesthesia described here.

Anesthesiologists must complete rigorous courses of education and training that take an average of 12 years. Our anesthesiologists provide the safest and highest quality of anesthesia care available.

Your anesthesiologist will

- Discuss your anesthetic options and recommend the safest anesthesia technique for you
- Personally administer your individualized anesthetic
- Provide for your safety and directly monitor your care.

Risks of anesthesia

While all types of anesthesia pose a risk, major side effects and complications are very uncommon. There are, however, risk factors to be considered when undergoing anesthesia as well as surgery. Age and certain medical conditions are the most common risk factors. If you have conditions that pose a significant risk, they will be addressed by your anesthesiologist and managed throughout your surgical procedure.

What is anesthesia?

Anesthesia means 'loss of sensation.' Anesthesia prevents you from feeling pain and other sensations during your medical procedure. It can be given in various ways and directed to different parts of the body.

Anesthesia includes using medicines and close monitoring to keep you comfortable. It can also help control breathing, blood pressure, blood flow and heart rate and rhythm. Anesthesia may be used to relax you, block pain, and make you sleepy or forgetful and/or unconscious during your surgery.

Four basic forms of anesthesia are commonly used today, and they may be combined. They include sedation, local, regional and general anesthesia.

Sedation is the use of intravenous medications that allow you to be in varying degrees of consciousness ranging from drowsy to a sleep-like state. The type of surgical

procedure will dictate what level of sedation is necessary. Sedation is commonly used along with local anesthesia.

Local anesthesia is commonly used for minor procedures and can be used together with sedation. With local anesthesia, medication is injected directly into the surgical site. You will be relaxed and/or drowsy and your surgical site will be numb prior to starting the procedure. You may remain aware of your surroundings and able to answer questions if necessary. Your anesthesiologist will monitor you throughout the procedure, giving you the proper medications as needed.

Regional anesthesia uses medication to numb a larger part of the body. Sometimes, depending on the surgery, this is done before you receive general anesthesia to help with pain in the recovery phase. Your anesthesiologist will explain what he or she will be doing in order to perform the regional anesthesia. There are three forms of regional anesthesia: peripheral nerve blocks, and epidural and spinal blocks.

Peripheral nerve blocks involve injection of local anesthetics (numbing medications) near the main nerves that target the area being operated on. These injections are commonly used for surgery of the extremities and can help reduce pain after surgery. This method is commonly used in conjunction with general anesthesia.

Retrobulbar blocks are used specifically for eye surgery. This involves a moment of unconsciousness while the surgeon anesthetizes the eye. The patient then promptly awakens relatively pain free without ever having the need for a breathing tube.

