

General Anesthesia: General Information

General anesthesia is requested if a patient has specific medical conditions which would warrant an anesthesiologist. General anesthesia involves the use of intravenous or inhalation agents to put you in a sleep-like state. Under general anesthesia, you will be unconscious so that you will not feel or remember your procedure(s). The most commonly used agent for GI procedures is an intravenous agent such as Propofol as it is short-acting and has anti-nausea effect. Your anesthesiologist will speak with you prior to your procedure to formulate a plan that is best for you based on your medical history. During your procedure, your anesthesiologist will be with you to monitor your vital signs, breathing, and depth of anesthesia to ensure you are safe and comfortable throughout the procedure. After the procedure, you will be taken to the recovery area until you are fully recovered from anesthesia and deemed stable for discharge.

Overall, general anesthesia is very safe. Thousands of people undergo anesthesia every day with no problem. However, there are risks with all types of anesthesia/medication.

The more common side effects after waking up from anesthesia include:

- Drowsiness
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Feeling cold/Shivering
- Dizziness/Lightheadedness
- Respiratory Depression

Other possible but rare adverse effects of anesthesia include but not limited to include:

- Dental Injury
- Respiratory problem sometimes requiring insertion of a breathing tube
- Heart problems such as a heart attack or palpitations
- Stroke
- Awareness under anesthesia

If you have any questions or any problems with anesthesia in the past, you will have an opportunity to speak with your anesthesiologist prior to your procedure.