South Coast Anesthesia

A Nursing Anesthesia Corporation

INFORMED CONSENT FOR ANESTHESIA

For your upcoming surgery with Dr. _____, your anesthesia will be administered by a fully licensed and qualified Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). This CRNA will be with you all during all phases of your anesthetic. Our goal is to provide a safe and comfortable experience for you.

Modern anesthesia is safe and usually well tolerated. However, even in experienced and competent hands, any type of anesthesia or pain relief carries a risk and complications can occur. Although in most cases the risks are extremely rare, in order for you to make an informed decision, you need to be aware that death or serious bodily injury can occur while under anesthesia. Some type of health problems increase the risk of complications, so it is important that you fully and accurately fill out the health history questionnaire and discuss this with your anesthetist.

Minor problems include nausea and vomiting, sore throat, headache, and injury to vocal cords, teeth or dental work. Serious complications include nerve injury, damage to one or more of the vital organs, even major disability or death. Other complications can occur.

Complications involving the lungs can occur after surgery and anesthesia. Atelectasis (collapsing of the small air sacks in the bottom of the lungs) can occur, leading to pneumonia. Pulmonary emboli or fat emboli can result and require hospitalization. Aspiration of stomach contents into the lungs can cause serious illness or death. Therefore, to help prevent this from occurring it is mandatory that you do not eat or drink anything within the eight (8) hours preceding your surgery, unless otherwise instructed.

To secure and protect your airway, a breathing tube is frequently inserted through your mouth into your trachea (windpipe). The tube is placed under direct visualization using a metal laryngoscope. During this procedure, damage can occur to your eyes, nose, mouth, teeth, throat or vocal cords.

Intravenous (IV) catheters are started on all patients going to surgery. This allows for the administration of the anesthetic medications and fluids. Sometimes veins become infected and blood clots can occur. The skin may react to the tape or nerve damage may occur due to the arm being positioned in one place for a prolonged period.

In rare instances, anesthesia agents can cause high fevers. Anesthesia drugs, whether to produce a general or local anesthesia, can cause your heart to stop or breathing to cease. In addition, there can be damage to the kidneys or liver. Local anesthetics can cause direct damage to nerves. Headaches, numbness, bleeding and paralysis can result from nerve blocks. An inadvertent injection of local anesthesia into the circulation can cause convulsions and shock.

Awareness during general anesthesia is rare but can occur.

Having listed most of the complications of anesthesia to help you make an informed decision, please be assured that the possibility of a major complication is remote (1 in 50,000). What most patients can expect is to be cold when you awaken, have some slight discomfort, and be drowsy. Patients tolerate this type of anesthesia well, usually with minimal problems. Your anesthetist is a highly trained and skilled person who will be monitoring all your vital signs throughout the procedure. Your anesthetist will talk with you prior to your procedure to discuss in detail your anesthesia care.

Your signature on this page gives consent to the administration of anesthesia by your anesthetist. Furthermore, your consent includes your acknowledgment that risks of complications always exist as a result of anesthetic management.

Please sign only after you have been informed to your satisfaction and you understand the information given.

_____ _____

Signature of Patient or Guardian Date

_____

Witness

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