



ANZCA
FPM

**ANAESTHESIA
AND CHILDREN**

PATIENT INFORMATION 3

During your child's anaesthesia

Following your child's pre-anaesthesia consultation, the anaesthetist will prepare your child for anaesthesia. This may include giving sedation (pre-medication) to your child to help with anxiety; applying local anaesthetic cream to numb a patch of skin where a cannula/ intravenous (IV) drip will be inserted to deliver the anaesthesia medicines; and providing distractions such as stories, videos, or toys.

How is general anaesthesia administered to children?

General anaesthesia (GA) for children begins with them either breathing anaesthetic gas through a face mask, or by injecting anaesthetic medicine into a vein through an IV drip. Starting general anaesthesia by IV injection is usually faster than by breathing anaesthetic gas. In some situations, such as for older children or in an emergency, IV injection is the preferred method.

Can I accompany my child into the operating room?

If it is helpful to your child and safe to do so, you may be able to accompany your child for the start of their anaesthesia. It is helpful if you remain calm and keep your child happy. As the anaesthesia takes effect, you may notice twitching type movements, eye rolling, snoring and other changes to breathing. This is normal. Once your child is anaesthetised, staff will escort you to a nearby waiting area. They will also make sure they have your phone number so they can call you to be with your child in the recovery area when they are waking up.

What happens after I leave?

Your child will remain anaesthetised, monitored and cared for by the anaesthetist. You will have the opportunity to rest and refresh yourself, and prepare for the time you are reunited with your child following the procedure.

Check out our
What is Anaesthesia
video for more information



anzca.edu.au/what-is-anaesthesia



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As the leading authority on anaesthesia in Australia and New Zealand, ANZCA provides accessible, evidence-based information designed to help you make informed decisions. Scan the QR code to visit our website anzca.edu.au. This information is a guide only and should not replace information supplied by your anaesthetist.