

TALLGRASS ANESTHESIA

PREOPERATIVE REMINDERS (FAQ)

What about eating or drinking before my anesthesia?

As a general rule, you should *not eat or drink anything* after midnight before your surgery. Under some circumstances, you may be given permission by your anesthesiologist to drink clear liquids up to a few hours before your anesthesia.

If you smoke, please refrain.

Will I need someone to take me home?

Yes, you must make arrangements for a responsible adult to take you home after your anesthetic or sedation. You will not be allowed to leave alone or drive yourself home. It is strongly suggested that you have someone stay with you during the first 24 hours. If you have local anesthesia only, with no sedation, it may be possible to go home without someone to accompany you. Check with your doctor first.

*These instructions are important for your safety. If you do not follow your physician's instructions about **not eating** and **having an adult take you home**, your surgery may be cancelled.*

Should I take my usual medicines?

Some medications should be taken and others should not. It is important to discuss this with your anesthesiologist. Do not interrupt medications unless your anesthesiologist or surgeon recommends it.

What should I wear?

If at all possible, wear loose-fitting clothes that are easy to put on and will fit over bulky bandages or surgical dressings. Leave your jewelry and valuables at home. Use of makeup should be kept to a minimum as no makeup at all is preferred.

DAY OF SURGERY (FAQ)

What happens before my surgery?

You will meet the anesthesiologist who will care for you on the day of your surgery before you go into the operating room. Your anesthesiologist will then review your medical and anesthesia history and the results of any laboratory tests and will answer any further questions you may have.

Nurses will record your vital signs, and your anesthesiologist and surgeon will visit with you, completing any evaluations and laboratory tests. Intravenous fluids will be started and preoperative medications given, if needed. Once in the operating room, monitoring devices will be attached such as a blood pressure cuff, EKG and other devices for your safety. At this point, you will be ready for anesthesia.

What happens during my surgery?

Your anesthesiologist is personally responsible for your comfort and well-being. Your anesthesiologist leads the anesthesia care team to monitor as well as manage your vital body functions during your surgery. Your anesthesiologist is also responsible for managing medical problems that might arise related to surgery as well as any chronic medical conditions you may have, such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure or heart problems. A member of your anesthesia team will be with you throughout your procedure.