

INFORMATION REGARDING ANESTHESIA FOR ENDOSCOPY

Anesthesia is a procedure that maintains an appropriate state of unconsciousness during the endoscopy. This way, the endoscopy can be performed without pain or discomfort. The anesthesia given is very light and lasts only for a short time. It therefore has very low risk with minimal unpleasant side effects.

Anesthesia is always provided by a specialist that is specifically trained in the administration of the medications for sedation. They also specialize in monitoring and controlling any co-existing diseases that might interfere with the anesthesia or the endoscopy.

GENERAL RISKS

There are certain risks inherent to any anesthesia. These may occur at the time of induction, during the procedure itself or during the wake-up phase. Serious complications may involve the heart, the lungs and the nervous system. There is also a small risk of death. The majority of these situations are correctable with the use of standard practices of anesthesia. More commonly, complications are mild and short-lived and may include a sore throat, mild nausea, cough or slight changes in your voice. There is also the risk of losing a loose tooth.

INDIVIDUAL RISKS

Your own past medical history and conditions such as diabetes, chronic anemia, high blood pressure, obesity, underlying cardiopulmonary illnesses and advanced age can increase the possibility of undesirable effects.

You will sleep comfortably during the procedure and will wake up 5 to 10 minutes after it is completed. As it is only a light sedation, there is usually no drowsiness or light-headedness commonly associated with traditional anesthesia.

Before the test it is very important to notify the anesthesiologist of any pre-existing medical conditions, current medications, or any known drug or food allergies. It is especially important to mention known heart or lung conditions, clotting abnormalities and the presence of implanted prosthesis or pacemakers. Please bring with you an up-to-date list of medications and specifically mention to the staff if you take blood thinners like Aspirin or Warfarin (SINTROM).

Before the procedure, any questions you may have will be answered in detail.