

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF ANESTHESIA

What is the common risk of anesthesia?

Even in a perfectly performed anesthetic, there are some risks involved. The severity of your risk is dependent on many factors including the type of surgery and your medical health. In general, the risk of complications due to anesthesia is extremely rare but may include cardiac (heart), pulmonary (breathing), nerve injury or dental injury. It is common for patients to have some degree of nausea and perhaps vomiting. If *you* have had a history of nausea with a previous anesthetic, please communicate this to your anesthesia provider before your surgery. We will administer powerful anti-nausea medications to you before surgery, during surgery and if need be, after surgery. Some patients will have a sore throat or a hoarse voice. This is benign and typically last 12-24 hours and will resolve on its own.

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY ANESTHETIC RISK?

- Improving your general physical condition can help you heal faster after an operation
- Consider cessation of smoking 6 weeks before your operation. This will help improve oxygenation of your body.
- No alcohol consumption for 24 hours before or after your surgery.
- No illicit drug use. If you have used illicit drugs in the past week, make sure your Anesthesiologist is aware of this.
- Remove all jewelry. Piercings in the mouth or nose can become loose and dislodged during surgery. This may mean that your jewelry could end up in your stomach or lungs. Remove all other body piercing as well.
- Remove all nail polish on the fingers and toes as these can interfere with the anesthesia monitor that monitors your blood oxygen level in the operating room.
- If you have any loose or capped teeth, please let your anesthesia provider know the day of your surgery.
- Do not wear contact lenses on the day of your surgery. Likewise, do not wear any mascara since particles from you mascara may come loose and scratch the cornea or lens of your eye during anesthesia.