

Forced-air Warming Therapy

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Forced-air warming therapy is used to keep your body warm before, during and after surgery.

A special blanket is laid on your body. The blanket is attached to a machine. Hoses blow warm air in and through the space. This helps to keep your body warm without heating up the room.

Operating rooms are kept cool to help keep supplies sterile and equipment working properly.

Studies have shown forced-air warming therapy to be significantly more effective than using warmed blankets (which can cool quickly) or other warming methods.

How it Works

During anesthesia, your body is not able to maintain its normal temperature. Your body temperature drops, putting you at risk for hypothermia.

Hypothermia causes your blood vessels to constrict (become smaller). This reduces the amount of oxygen-rich blood in your blood.

This can lead to an increase in:

- blood loss
- risk for infection.

Forced-air warming therapy prevents or treats hypothermia by keeping your body warm before, during and after surgery.

Safety

Forced-air warming therapy is safe. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of this therapy.

National and state guidelines recommend warming therapy as part of safety during surgery and to reduce risk for infection.

Whom To Ask With Questions

Talk with a member of your health care team if you have questions.