

# Anesthesia for a Myelomeningocele Repair

## Myelomeningocele Repair

You are having surgery to repair birth defects of the spine and spinal membranes of your unborn baby. This surgery is known as a myelomeningocele repair.

## Anesthesia Plan

You will meet with an anesthesiologist (doctor who specializes in anesthesia) on the day of your surgery. He or she will talk with you about your medical history, anesthesia plan for surgery, and answer your questions.

You will have a general anesthesia. This means you will be asleep during surgery.

## Epidural for Pain Control

You will have an epidural to help control pain after the surgery. The epidural will be placed in the operating room.

- An epidural is a small catheter (tube) placed in your back.
- Your anesthesiologist gives you medicine through the tube to numb you from the waist down.
- The epidural may stay in place for 24 hours.

## Before the Surgery

- The nurse will place the intravenous (IV) line in your hand or arm.
- You will meet with some of the health care team members who will take care of you and your baby.
- Members of the anesthesia team will place safety monitors and place the epidural with you sitting upright.
- After the epidural, you will lie down and go to sleep for surgery.
- After you are asleep, the anesthesiologist will add other monitors and IVs to help keep you safe.

## After the Surgery

- You will spend time in the anesthesia recovery room before you return to your room for the rest of your stay.
- You will feel sleepy the first few hours after surgery. This is because of the medicines (anesthesia and magnesium) used during surgery.
- An anesthesiologist will meet with you the next day to talk about your pain control.