

Caring for Your Child During Surgery

General Information

This information will help you prepare for child's surgery.

Surgery can be a stressful time for children and parents. Your child's health care team will work with you to make this a positive experience for both you and your child.

Can I go with my child to the operating room?

Yes. In most cases, you can go with your child to the operating room and be with him or her as the anesthesia is given. After your child is asleep, you will go back to the waiting area.

Is it required that I go with my child to the operating room?

No. It's not required that you come to the operating room with your child. Many parents choose to separate in their child's admission room and have staff bring their child back to the operating room.

How many family members can be with my child in the operating room?

For safety reasons, only one person may go with your child to the operating room.

How soon can I see my child after surgery?

Every effort will be made to include you in your child's recovery as soon as possible. The timing will be affected by the length of the surgery and how quickly your child is recovering. In most cases, you will be able to see your child soon after he or she is awake.

What can I expect if I go to the operating room with my child?

- You will need to wear a thin suit over your clothing, a surgical hat and shoe covers.
- In the operating room, your child may be asked to lie on the surgical bed or sit on the lap of a staff member. Monitors will be placed on your child and he or she will be given the anesthesia.
- Young children are given anesthesia with a mask. Staff members will try to make this process as gentle as possible.

When the mask is placed on your child's face, he or she may try to push the mask away. It's very important that the mask stays on your child's face, so that he or she can be given the anesthesia and fall asleep. If the mask is removed, your child will not receive the anesthesia.

- As the anesthesia is being given to your child, you may notice some of the following:
 - eyes rolling back
 - noisy breathing
 - arm, leg and head movements that seem wild or uncoordinated.

All of these actions are normal and your child will not remember them.

- After your child is asleep, a staff member will walk with you back to the waiting area. You cannot be in the surgery area without a staff member.
- In rare cases, you may be asked to leave the operating room before your child is fully asleep. This will allow staff members to focus on the care and safety of your child.