



Welcome To the
Children's Ward
South Infirmary Victoria University
Hospital Cork



Information for parents whose child is having a
General Anaesthetic at SIVUH

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For children > 1yr old we generally facilitate a parent / guardian to be present with their child at time of induction of anaesthesia.

The purpose of having the parent / guardian here is to support your child in a strange environment. Our priority at all times is the safety and wellbeing of your child.

A General Anaesthetic ensures that your child is unconscious during an operation or procedure.

Anaesthetists are the specialist doctors who give the anaesthetic and look after the health of your child during surgery.

They are also closely involved with your child's pain relief after surgery.

How is the Anaesthetic given?

The Anaesthetist will discuss with you the most suitable way to give the anaesthetic to your child.

In children, most anaesthetics are given via a face mask.

Your child will breathe in anaesthetic gas and over the course of 1-2 mins your child will become unconscious. Sometimes the anaesthetic will be delivered via cannula into a vein. Sometimes there are medical reasons why things have to be done a certain way. This will be discussed with you beforehand.

In the event of a child not being able to cooperate, the Anaesthetist will discuss other options with you, such as asking you to assist in holding your child safely to enable the anaesthetic to be delivered.

Please note that while your child is becoming unconscious it is *usual* for them to develop eye rolling and to wriggle.

As soon as your child is no longer conscious, you will be escorted out of theatre to allow the anaesthetic team to follow on caring for your child, and to allow surgery to proceed

Occasionally, the Anaesthetist will prescribe a 'pre-med' if your child is very anxious. A 'pre-med' is an oral sedative medication. In general it is not routine for a child to get a pre-med as it may delay recovery from the anaesthetic.

After the Anaesthetic

Your child will be recovered by the specialist staff in the Recovery Room. The nursing staff here will try to ensure that your child is safely recovered from the anaesthetic and as comfortable as possible. Some children show signs of confusion and /or distress when they wake up .This is more likely in younger children.

A few children become very agitated, crying and waving arms/legs. This may last up to 30 minutes. The Recovery room nurses are very experienced at looking after children at this time and you will be invited to come to your child in the recovery room as soon as possible - the safety and welfare of your child is paramount at this time.

Adapted from Royal College of Anaesthetists 2017



Thanks to Mr M. O Sullivan Con .Anaesthetist who helped with development of this booklet

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