

Box 5-6

Levels of Sedation

Minimal Sedation (Anxiolysis)

Patient responds to verbal commands.

Cognitive function may be impaired.

Respiratory and cardiovascular systems are unaffected.

Moderate Sedation (Previously Conscious Sedation)

Patient responds to verbal commands but may not respond to light tactile stimulation.

Cognitive function is impaired.

Respiratory function is adequate; cardiovascular system is unaffected.

Deep Sedation

Patient cannot be easily aroused except with repeated or painful stimuli.

Ability to maintain airway may be impaired.

Spontaneous ventilation may be impaired; cardiovascular function is maintained.

General Anesthesia

Loss of consciousness, patient cannot be aroused with painful stimuli.

Airway cannot be maintained adequately and ventilation is impaired.

Cardiovascular function may be impaired.