

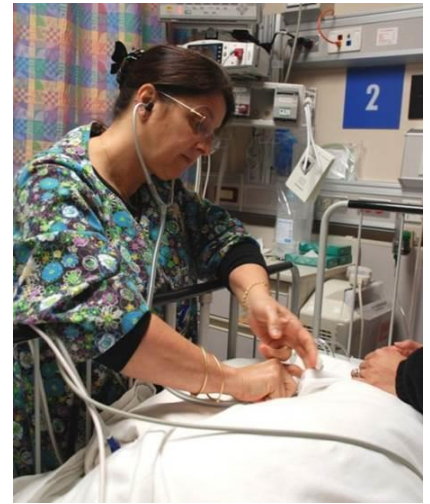
# Care of Your Child After Anesthesia

Your child has had surgery or a procedure and has received anesthesia. All children are treated with some type of anesthesia. Your medical team will go over the different medications needed for your child. Here is some general information to know:

- Pain medications are given during and after surgery.
- In some surgeries, the team will use local anesthetic medicine to treat your child's pain. This means they will numb the nerves at the site where your child will have surgery.
- Every child reacts in a different way when they wake up from anesthesia.

## What should my child expect right after their surgery?

- At the end of the surgery, the anesthesiologist will take your child to the recovery or "wake-up" room.
- When your child is ready, the nurses will call you to join them in the recovery room.
- Each child takes a different amount of time to wake-up from anesthesia. It depends on the type of surgery and the types of medications they received during surgery.



## How do I help my child when they wake up?

- It is important to allow your child to wake up on their own
- It is normal for your child to wake up cranky or confused.
- Usually with time your child will calm down after anesthesia. Additional medication may be needed to help them recover.
  - Your medical team will help you decide if medicine is needed to calm your child.
- If your child needs pain medication in the recovery room, a nurse or doctor will help you.
  - Crying does not always mean that your child is in pain

## How will my child recover from anesthesia?

- Your child can start drinking clear liquids once they wake up and if the medical team allows it.
- Nausea or vomiting is a common side-effect of anesthesia.
- Other side effects of anesthesia can be chills/shivering or sore throat.
- The nurse will provide instructions for how to care for your child at home.
- Once your child is awake, they will either be discharged to home or sent to a hospital room for additional care. Your anesthesiologist and recovery room nurses will decide when your child is ready.
- Your child may be awake but drowsy from the anesthesia medicine. Do not be worried if they are asleep on the ride home, nap more than usual or feel tired.

## Who do I call if I need more information or have questions?

- Surgery Admitting Department: 323-361-4500
- Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU): 323-361-2580

## Post Anesthesia Care Unit

4650 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027 | CHLA.org

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