

SEDATION FOR ONCOLOGY CHILDREN

The Department may provide sedation for oncology children undergoing bone marrow aspiration or intrathecal chemotherapy.

There are two categories:

- 1) Failed sedation by the paediatrician
- 2) Failure to access the intra-thecal space in the older obese children

Sedation request

Arrangements are usually made with the "roster monster" and the request is sent to the Children's Operating Theatre Reception the day before.

The request should include

Patient details: Name, NRIC, Age, Body Weight and Ward

Oncologist doctor performing the procedures: Name and handphone number

Investigations: Follows the oncology protocol unless there is a change in the medical status.

The anaesthetist needs to review the need for the procedure with the primary oncologist.

The oncologist doctor performing the procedure, is informed of the date, time, and the operating theatre. The intra-thecal space, if difficult, is accessed by the anaesthetist and the chemotherapy drugs given by the oncologist doctor

Fasting guidelines

Follows General Anaesthesia fasting guidelines.

Consent

Ensure that the anaesthetic/sedation consent is obtained.

Documentation

The anaesthesia chart is used and the paediatric anaesthesia audit form must be filled.

Location

The patient is brought down to the Operating Theatre

Sedation technique

An intravenous cannula is usually inserted by the ward doctor.

Otherwise ensure Ametop/ EMLA is placed 45 minutes before the procedure.

The choice of drugs depends on the request and anaesthetist

- 1) For cases of failed sedation by the paediatric medical team, intravenous propofol +/- fentanyl is usually administered
- 2) For cases involving difficult lumbar punctures, then the choice of sedation drugs/ decision to convert to GA depends on anaesthesia specialist

Recovery

Patients who received sedation in the operating theatre follow the OT discharge criteria.

Outpatients should meet discharge criteria and be reviewed by the oncologist team before being allowed to go home.