

Anesthesia terms cover types of pain relief (General, Regional, Local, Sedation), airway management (Intubation, LMA), medications (Antiemetics, Propofol, Anticoagulants), patient states (Amnesia, Analgesia), and professionals (CRNA, Anesthesia Associate), all aimed at keeping patients comfortable, unconscious, and safe during procedures by blocking pain, managing consciousness, and supporting breathing.

Here's a glossary of common anesthesia terms:

Types of Anesthesia & Sedation

General Anesthesia: A medically induced coma causing unconsciousness, amnesia (memory loss), and pain relief (analgesia) for the whole body, requiring breathing support.

Regional Anesthesia: Blocks pain in a larger area (like an epidural for childbirth) by numbing major nerve bundles, consciousness maintained.

Local Anesthesia: Blocks pain in a small, specific spot, no consciousness change.

Sedation (Procedural/Conscious/Deep): Drug-induced states of reduced consciousness; ranges from minimal (responds to commands) to deep (responds to painful stimuli), with varying levels of airway/cardiovascular support needed.

MAC (Monitored Anesthesia Care): Local anesthesia plus sedation and analgesia, managed by an anesthesiologist.

Airway & Monitoring

Intubation: Inserting a tube (endotracheal tube) into the windpipe (trachea) to control breathing.

Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA): A device placed in the throat to keep the airway open.

Arterial Line: A cannula in an artery (wrist) for continuous blood pressure monitoring and blood sampling.

Medications

Anesthetics: Drugs that cause anesthesia (general, local, etc.).

Antiemetics: Drugs to prevent nausea and vomiting.

Anticoagulants: Blood-thinning medicines to prevent clots.

Propofol: A common IV drug for inducing general anesthesia.

Patient States & Responses

Amnesia: Loss of memory for the event.

Analgesia: Pain relief.

Awareness: Rare, unintentional consciousness during general anesthesia.

Personnel

Anesthesiologist: A doctor trained in anesthesia.

CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist): Administers anesthesia under supervision.

Anesthesia Associate: Works with the anesthesia team, previously called Physician's Assistant (Anaesthesia).