



Alaska Pediatric Surgery

Patient Information Sheet:

Exam Under Anesthesia

Sometimes it is difficult to get adequate exam of your child in our office and we do not want to cause un-needed discomfort and/or emotional trauma. So, when this is the case it is recommended that your child undergo an Exam Under Anesthesia. What will be done under anesthesia depends on the body part/area that will be examined. Occasionally tissue is removed, biopsies are taken, or problems are addressed during this procedure. If this is a possibility it will be discussed with you BEFORE surgery.

Questions You May Have

It's normal to have concerns about your child's procedure. Here are answers to some common questions:

Will my child be in pain during surgery? No. Your child will be given medications that make him or her sleep during surgery. The Anesthesiologist will speak with you and your family on the day of surgery regarding the plan for your child. Some mild discomfort after the operation is normal, depending on what was done, but should be minimal.

Is further surgery always needed? Without an adequate exam it is difficult to come up with a plan for your child. Immediately following the exam the surgeon will meet with you to update you on what was found and briefly discuss what the plan will be. Usually, we will bring you back to clinic to discuss the plan more in depth and answer any questions you have.

Preparing Your Child for Surgery

Follow your doctor's advice to help get your child ready for surgery. You may be asked to:

Tell the doctor about any medications your child takes, including children's pain relievers.

Accompany your child during tests. These may include urine and blood tests.

In general, guidelines for eating prior to surgery are as follows:

8 hours before surgery: no more solid food – clear fluids only

6 hours before surgery: no more formula – clear fluids only

4 hours before surgery: nothing by mouth – no more breast milk or clear fluids

Our office will call and let you know the specific directions for your child.

The Day of Surgery

A health care provider will give your child an intravenous (IV) to provide fluids and medications. You'll then meet with the anesthesiologist. He or she will talk with you about the anesthesia used to prevent pain during surgery.

Exam Under Anesthesia

The procedure usually takes about 30- 45 minutes to perform. Depending on what body part we are looking at, and if biopsies will be obtained, may add some additional time. While in the operating room special instruments may be used that are not available in the clinic. Occasionally, the procedure may be recorded or pictures may be taken. This will be discussed with you prior to the procedure if this is planned.

Your Child's Recovery

Your child can likely go home the same day as surgery. Specific instructions will be provided following the procedure, depending on what was found during the procedure.

Risks and Complications:

Exams Under Anesthesia for children are safe, but with every procedure there are some risks. These include:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Need for additional/repeat procedure depending on the findings
- Risks associated with anesthesia

When to call our office:

After surgery, call our office if your child has any of the following:

A large amount of swelling or bruising. A small amount is normal, but if you are concerned please call us.

- Fever over 100.4°F (38.0° C)
- Increasing redness of drainage of the body part or biopsy site
- Bleeding
- Increasing pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- With any concerns you have

****Call Alaska Pediatric Surgery with questions or concerns 929-7337****