

General anaesthetic for a dental operation

Information for patients

What is a general anaesthetic?

Having a general anaesthetic will mean you will be unconscious throughout your dental operation. You will be given your general anaesthetic by an Anaesthetist.

To go to sleep you may have a small injection in the back of your hand or breathe the anaesthetic gases through a mask.

What are the risks of a general anaesthetic?

It is very common to feel sick, shivery, have a sore throat and have some bruising or pain around the injection site. Rare risks include nerve damage, scratching of the eye, damage to teeth and allergic reaction. It is very rare that you may wake up during the operation, experience loss of vision and there is a very rare risk of death from anaesthesia.

Information about the risks of a general anaesthetic is also available from the Royal College of Anaesthetists:

www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2019-11/Risk-infographics_2019web.pdf



If you have any questions you can discuss this with your anaesthetist at your Preoperative Assessment Appointment.

Where will I be treated?

You will be admitted to the Surgical Day Bed Unit in St John's Hospital, Livingston. Your treatment will be carried out in an operating theatre.

St John's Hospital
Howden Road West
Howden
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6PP

What treatment will I have?

Your treatment plan will be discussed with you during your assessment appointment. This will take place in the Oral Surgery Department at the Dental Institute. This will happen before you are put on the waiting list for your operation.

The treatment plan will be discussed with you again on the day of your operation. This will be with a member of the oral surgery team who will provide your care and you will have the opportunity to ask further questions.

Preoperative assessment appointment

You will be given a Preoperative Assessment Appointment for a couple of days before your operation. This will take place at St John's Hospital, Livingston. General health checks will be carried out. Please bring a list of your medications or your prescription to this appointment.

At the appointment, you will receive more details about your operation. This will include what time to arrive for your operation, fasting instructions and instructions about your medications.

How long will my treatment take?

You will be given a specific time to attend for your operation at your Preoperative Assessment Appointment. When you arrive for your operation, you will meet with the nursing staff, oral surgery team and anaesthetist who will be caring for you. Your operation can take up to 2 hours. In most cases you will be ready to return home by late afternoon.

Do I need to fast before my general anaesthetic?

Yes. Fasting is important for your safety when you have a general anaesthetic. You will be given clear information about when to stop eating and drinking at your Preoperative Assessment Appointment. If you are a smoker, you should not smoke or vape 24 hours before your operation.

Medication

Please bring a list of your current medication to your Preoperative Assessment Appointment.

You will be given clear instructions about how to take your medicines and which ones you should stop taking on the day of your operation.

On the morning of your operation, you should take your regular medicines unless told not to by a doctor or nurse. Take tablets or pills with a small sip of water.

What will I bring?

You should wear comfortable, loose clothing and flat sensible shoes.

Do not wear any make-up or nail varnish and do not wear jewellery (with the exception of a wedding ring).

Please don't bring any valuables with you as there is limited safe storage.

What will happen after my operation?

You will return to the ward where you will stay until you are fully recovered. You will be encouraged to drink and eat something light. The nursing staff will issue any medicines prescribed by the dentist and anaesthetist for you to take home (e.g. painkillers). A responsible adult will need to stay with you at home overnight for 24 hours following your general anaesthetic.

Do I need to arrange transport?

You must arrange for a responsible adult to collect you and take you home by car or taxi.

You must not drive after a general anaesthetic and you should avoid public transport (bus or train).

How will I be informed of my admission date?

You will receive a telephone call or letter by post with your admission date and the date of your Preoperative Assessment Appointment. You will need to attend this appointment at St John's Hospital before your operation.

How did we do? Your feedback helps shape services that we provide.

visit: careopinion.org.uk

phone: 0800 122 31 35

scan the QR code below

