



Undergoing Anesthesia

What can I expect while my child recovers from anesthesia?

While today's anesthetics allow a smoother, more comfortable recovery than in the past, side effects are not unusual. Nausea and/or vomiting can occur either as the result of the anesthetic or the surgical procedure. If needed, anti-nausea medicines will be given. Every effort will be made to provide comfort to your child. Pain medicine may be necessary. Even if your child is comfortable, waking up in an unfamiliar environment may be upsetting. It is occasionally helpful to provide medicine to relieve anxiety in the recovery room. Your child may be very sleepy from the anesthetic or other medication. Although your child will want to see you, he or she will probably want to sleep and not feel like talking.

How can I help in the recovery room?

To make visitation in the recovery room as smooth as possible, we ask for your cooperation in the following areas:

- **Only two visitors at a time.** There is a limited amount of space around patients in the recovery room. The nurses need to be able to move freely around the bed in order to take care of your child.
- **No children under the age of 16.** Your child needs all of your attention while you are visiting in the recovery room. Also, a lot of equipment and unfamiliar people and noises might be scary for a younger child.
- **Ask our Family Support Nurse for updates.** A Family Support Nurse is available in the daytime, Monday through Friday. The nurse will make rounds frequently between the operating room, the recovery room and the surgery waiting area. He or she will be able to give you information about how your child's surgery or recovery is going.
- **Please do not come to the recovery room until we call for you.** If the surgeon tells you that your child is going to the recovery room, that only means the procedure itself is done. Additional time is needed for the anesthesiologist to wake your child up and for the operating room staff to get him or her ready to move to the recovery room. It will then take time to get your child settled. This can take an hour or more after the surgeon talks to you.

May I leave the waiting area?

If you decide to leave the surgery waiting area for any reason, please either sign out on the clipboard at the desk or make sure the host or hostess knows where you are going and how long you will be gone. This will help us if we need to find you. If you are in the waiting area around a mealtime, we do encourage you to eat. Please feel free to answer the phone at the desk if it rings when the host or hostess is away from the waiting area.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns while your child is undergoing inpatient surgery at Riley at IU Health, please call **317.944.8634**.

If you have any questions or concerns while your child is at Riley Outpatient Center at Indiana University Health, please call **317.948.1511**.