



About Your Anesthesia

Mark A. Melish, M.D. Diplomate, American Board of Anesthesiology

You are excited! You've finally scheduled that surgery you wanted. Dr. Young and his staff have answered all of your questions about your procedure and you're all set to show up at the surgery center. You are also a little bit anxious and you notice that as your surgery date comes closer, your anxiety increases especially about your anesthesia. Your feelings are entirely normal and very common. To ease your anxiety, I have answered some of the most common questions concerning your anesthesia.

Why should I have anesthesia when other surgeons say they can do the same procedure while I'm awake?

I am so glad you asked! This is a very important question because many doctors that talk about local anesthesia or being "awake" at not being entirely truthful. Many doctors consider you awake if you can talk, even if you are slurring your speech or mumbling. Their "awake" procedure very often involves giving you powerful intravenous or oral narcotics or sedatives. Since they are not giving a "complete anesthetic" they do not consider it an anesthetic at all. They have had little or no training in the use of these drugs in this way.

Anesthesia is not black or white and people differ in their sensitivities to medications. The same dose of medication may have minimal effect on one person and yet completely render another person unconscious to the point they lose their airway and protective reflexes or stop breathing. Furthermore, you may have minimal monitoring and the one doing the monitoring may be the person doing the procedure or someone inadequately trained. The local anesthesia involves only local anesthetic like lidocaine. At Aesthetic Enhancement, you are being monitored and medicated by Board Certified Anesthesiologists (MD's) who have done four years of post medical school training.

Your surgeon and anesthesiologists have privileges to do these procedures at major hospitals but choose our certified Outpatient Surgery Center for privacy, comfort and convenience, not because we have to. See if any other doctor you may be considering could get those privileges at a hospital if they wanted to. They may also play down the risk of their type of anesthesia and even claim that it is safer. They may have no other choice.

What are your anesthesiologist's credentials?

I am Board Certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology, and an honor graduate of Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. I did my internship in General Surgery and residency in anesthesiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. I have been in private practice for 21 years and have specialized in anesthesia for Plastic Surgery, working closely with Dr. Young and Aesthetic Enhancement for 20 years. Other anesthesiologists who work with Dr. Young have similar training and experience.

When will I meet my anesthesiologist?

With the advent of outpatient surgery, you will probably not meet your anesthesiologist until just prior to surgery. At that time, you will be questioned about your medical and surgical history, medication allergies, medications you are taking, as well as any prior problems with anesthesia you or close blood relatives have had. All "medications" include prescription, over the counter,