Instructions before General Anesthetic, Child

Your child will be given a general anesthetic. This is a procedure in which an *anesthetist* (a nurse specialized in giving anesthesia) or an *anesthesiologist* (a doctor specialized in giving anesthesia) will help your child sleep with medications while a procedure is performed. Your child may feel tired or irritable following this anesthetic and procedure.

BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S ANESTHETIC OR SURGERY

Your child should be present one hour prior to their procedure or as directed by their caregiver. Check in at the admissions desk for filling out necessary forms if not pre-registered. There will be consent forms to sign prior to the procedure. There is a waiting area for your family while your child is having their procedure.

LET YOUR CHILD'S CAREGIVERS KNOW ABOUT THE FOLLOWING

- Allergies
- Medications taken including herbs, eye drops, over the counter medications, and creams
- Use of steroids (by mouth or creams)
- Previous problems with anesthetics or Novocaine
- Possibility of pregnancy, if this applies
- History of blood clots (thrombophlebitis)
- History of bleeding or blood problems
- Previous surgery
- Other health problems

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

After surgery, your child will be taken to the recovery area. A nurse will monitor their progress. When your child is awake, stable, taking fluids well and having no problems, they may go home.

For the first 24 hours following your child's anesthetic:

- Have a responsible adult observe child at all times.
- Limit outdoor activities which may be dangerous. An example is riding a bicycle.
- Add to the diet as tolerated. Liquids or light meals are often best tolerated for the first day or two.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF THERE IS:

- A persistent dizziness or *nausea* (feeling sick to your stomach).
- An inability to stay awake.
- An inability to arouse your child or wake them up.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD:

- Develops a rash.
- Has difficulty breathing.
- Develops a croupy cough.
- Develops any other problems you are concerned about.

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