

Having an anaesthetic

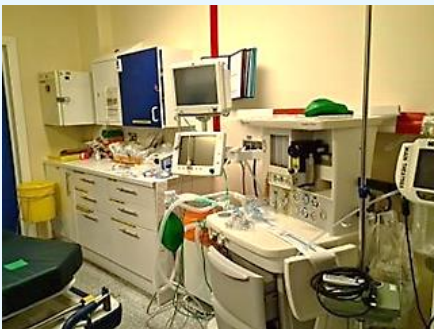


This document tells you what will happen when you have an anaesthetic at The Whittington Hospital



When the doctors are ready to do your operation

You will be taken on a trolley to the anaesthetic room



The anaesthetic room

This is the room where you will have an **anaesthetic**

An **anaesthetic** is an injection that stops you feeling any pain during an operation



The anaesthetic room has lots of equipment in it - you don't have to be frightened



The equipment is there to check your breathing and heart are ok during the operation

This information is shown on a screen



The anaesthetist

A specialist doctor called an **anaesthetist** will come and see you

They will ask you questions and answer any questions you have



There are **2** types of anaesthetic

- a **general** anaesthetic
- and a **local** anaesthetic

The anaesthetist will tell you what will happen



General anaesthetic

If you have a general anaesthetic you will be asleep during your operation

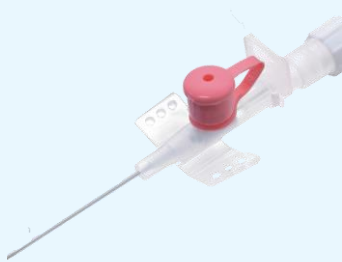


When the operation has finished you will slowly wake up



A **general** anaesthetic **stops** you

- feeling any pain during your operation
- and seeing or hearing anything during your operation



When you have **general** anaesthetic you will be given an injection

You will have a canula put on – this is to help the doctor to give you the injection



You will need to breath in through a **face mask** – the face mask might smell strange, but this is ok



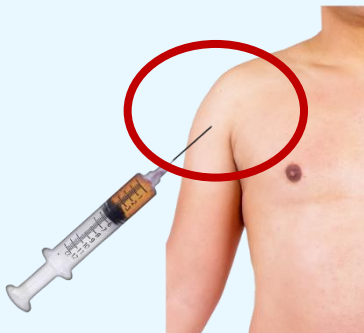
After having a general anaesthetic some people may get side effects like

- sickness
- a sore throat
- or a headache



Local anaesthetic

You **do not** go to sleep when you have a local anaesthetic – you will be **awake**

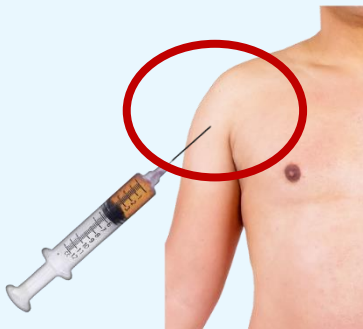


A **local** anaesthetic injection stops pain in the small area where you are having the operation



The local anaesthetic will make that part of your body feel **numb**

Numb means you don't feel anything



If you still feel pain after the injection let the doctor know

They may need to give you another injection



After having a local anaesthetic some people may get side effects like

- bleeding from the injection
- or an allergic reaction



The doctors and nurses will look after you while you are sleeping and having your operation



After your operation

You will be taken to the **recovery room** where the nurses will take good care of you until you wake up



If you want, your carer can be waiting here for you while you are waking up



The nurses will look after you while you are waking up and recovering from your operation – they will keep checking you are ok



Going to the ward

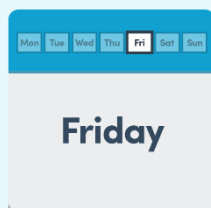
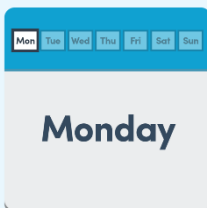
When you are less sleepy and ok, a nurse and porter will take you back to the ward on a trolley



If you or your carer need help while you are in the hospital you can call the **Learning Disability Liaison Nurse** on

020 72 88 53 58

or **07876 14 52 98**



The **Learning Disability Liaison Nurse** at The Whittington Hospital works **Monday to Friday**



They work from **8.30** to **4.30**



Information for people with

- a learning disability
- autism and a learning disability
- autism
- carers and relatives

can be found on the Trust website at whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=38579

References: EasyRead2022web.pdf (rcoa.ac.uk) download.cfm (bartshealth.nhs.uk)

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