

Important role of anaesthesia in surgery

Anaesthesia is an important part of surgery. It enables patients to undergo an operation safely without experiencing distress and pain.

There are three types of anaesthetics: 1) General anaesthesia, which renders patients totally unconscious preventing them from moving during the operation; 2). regional anaesthesia, makes only that part of the body that is to be operated on lose feeling. This type of anaesthesia is often performed in knee joint and hip joint surgeries; 3) local anaesthesia is similar to regional anaesthesia, but influences a smaller area of the body. General anaesthesia and regional anaesthesia must be performed by anaesthetists.

Anaesthetists evaluate patients before an operation to determine suitable anaesthetic plans. Anaesthetist is required to obtain patients' medical history, conduct interviews with them and order required blood for transfusion. An anaesthetic plan will consider the nature and duration of the operation, patients' health conditions and other technical support factors. Patients are required to fast for about six hours before surgery.

During surgery, the anaesthetist continues administering anaesthetic drugs or gases to the patient to keep him or her unconscious throughout the operation. An anaesthetist also monitors the patient's heartbeat, blood pressure, blood glucose level and oxygen level throughout the operation, and should be ever alert to any unexpected and life-threatening development (such as blood loss and allergic reaction) occurring during the operation.