

About your anaesthetist- Dr. Shailesh S. Murty



You are in good hands

I am a senior anaesthetist with over 20 years of experience in providing comprehensive care and contributing significantly to the field of anaesthesia.

Since attaining my Fellowship of the Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (FANZCA), I have diligently served as a consultant anaesthetist across diverse medical institutions within Australia. My expertise lies in specialized areas, particularly Oral/Maxillofacial, and Regional anaesthesia. I have participated in extensive reviews and publishing case reports and articles to enhance best practices.

My dedication to advancing the field extends beyond clinical practice. I have actively engaged in teaching and mentoring within the ANZCA's Training Program Scheme, providing registrar teaching on Ultrasound-guided Regional Anaesthesia, and holding the role of Supervisor of Training at esteemed institutions.

Furthermore, my commitment to quality improvement is evident through my involvement in audits, presentations at national and international conferences, and proactive participation in administrative duties,

such as designing audit tools and streamlining theatre allocations for optimal patient care.

My passion for enhancing patient outcomes and contributing to medical advancements aligns with my memberships in professional bodies like the Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, AMA, and memberships in specialized societies such as the Society of Bariatric Anaesthetists and Special Interest Groups for Regional and Obstetric Anaesthesia.

Patient safety is my top priority in every aspect of care. I focus on thorough pre-operative assessments designed to suit each patient's specific requirements. I continuously update my knowledge to apply the latest techniques, ensuring minimal risks and maximum comfort during procedures. I closely monitor patients and tailor anaesthetic plans to guarantee a safe and secure experience throughout their time under my care.

Before the surgery

I will want to know about your medical history. This may include a telehealth consultation before the date of your surgery. You might need further tests or consultations with other medical and health specialists before your surgery. You must notify me if you develop any new medical conditions during this time.

Your medications

Most medications can continue up until surgery. Blood thinners and diabetic medication require special consideration and you will be given specific instructions on what to do with these medications. If you are unsure, please ask your surgeon or your anaesthetist.

Preparation

Before your surgery, you will need to fast and not consume food or clear liquids. Generally, this is no food six hours prior to surgery and no clear liquids for two hours.

What to expect

Oral surgery can be performed with a general anaesthetic. The type of anaesthesia is heavily dependent on the type of surgery, but also the preference of the anaesthetist or the patient.

General Anaesthesia: General anaesthesia is what people describe as 'going to sleep'. The anaesthetist will insert a cannula into your vein and attach fluids (a drip). Before going under a general anaesthetic, you will usually be asked to breathe oxygen through a mask. Anaesthetic medications are usually given through the cannula to start the anaesthetic. Once you are fully 'asleep' a breathing tube will be placed in your windpipe to help with your breathing during surgery.

Your anaesthetist will keep you 'asleep' and monitor you during the entire operation. It is normal to feel drowsy as you wake up.

For young children having oral surgery, one parent may be able to stay with their child until they are 'asleep'.

The parent can often come to the recovery room as the child wakes up.

Post-Surgery

Oral surgery does not usually require strong pain-relieving medications, but they will be available if you need them. Your pain relief will be discussed when you meet me.

If you have had sedation or a general anaesthetic, it is normal to feel drowsy as you wake up. You may also experience some discomfort, pain or nausea. There will often be medications to treat these given to you on a regular basis.

You may also notice a dry or sore throat. However, this usually passes in 1-2 days. Generally, you can expect to go home on the same day as your surgery. Please confirm this with your surgeon and/or anaesthetist before you have surgery. Some oral surgeries however, such as major jaw surgery will often require one or two nights in hospital.

If you have had sedation or a general anaesthetic and are returning home on the day of the surgery, you must have an adult with you for 24 hours after the procedure. For safety reasons it is important that you refrain from the following for up to 24 hours after receiving the anaesthetic: drinking alcohol, driving a car, operating machinery.

Risks to be aware of

Major complications with anaesthesia for oral surgery are uncommon when anaesthesia is administered by a specialist anaesthetist.

Sedation or general anaesthesia can make you feel drowsy afterwards. Nausea and vomiting are not uncommon and anti-nausea drugs will be available. Other short term side effects can include bruising, fatigue, headache, sore throat or sleep disturbance. You may experience other complications such as damage to the teeth, breathing problems or muscle pains.

While extremely rare, serious side effects such as severe allergic reaction, heart attack, stroke, seizure, lung damage, pneumonia, eye injury, damage to the vocal cords or infection exist. Remember that the risks of these more serious complications, including death, are extremely rare.

You are encouraged to ask me any questions you may have. I will be more than happy to answer them and discuss the best and safest plan for you and your surgery.