

Welcome to Gillies Hospital

Information for young people having an operation





It is common for you to have questions about your surgery when you come into hospital. You can ask your nurse or doctor and they will explain things to you. Sometimes it helps to write your questions down.

The "Bella Visits Gillies Hospital" book is a really great book for explaining what will happen to you before and after your operation. If you haven't seen it you can find it on our website www.gillieshospital.co.nz

After talking to young people your age we have discovered that you might have a few more questions that aren't answered in the book.

Can my Parents stay with me?



Yes, they can, until you are asleep/anaesthetised.

One parent can come with you into the operating room and can stay with you at the beginning of your anaesthetic. They then go and wait for you in the ward or in the Daystay room while your Anaesthetist stays with you throughout the operation keeping you safe.

You will wake up in the recovery room with your own nurse. Soon after this, you will see your Parent/Caregiver.

Why can I not eat or drink for so long before my operation?



We need you to fast (not eat and drink) for some hours before your surgery- you will be told exact times the day before your surgery. By fasting, we avoid the food and drink going into your lungs when you go to sleep.

Will I wake up during the operation?



There is a very low chance of awareness in every anaesthetic so the Anaesthetist stays with you the whole time and ensures you stay asleep/anaesthetised until you arrive at the recovery room.

Will it hurt after the surgery?



Sometimes you can feel some pain or discomfort. If you do, it is important to tell Mum or Dad and your nurse.

The doctors and nurses give you pain medication but sometimes it is a bit uncomfortable. It is important that you tell mum or dad or the nurse so we can give you more medicine

Some other things help too like cold drinks, ice blocks, watching a DVD/iPad or reading a book to take your mind off it.

Will I have a needle or injection?



Sometimes we have to put a very small tube into your arm, this is called an IV. This has a little plug on the end and is covered with a bandage. It doesn't have a needle in it when it is in you. The Anaesthetist will talk to you about having one, It is often put in when you are asleep so you won't feel a thing. We use it to give you extra medicine if you feel sick, or feel pain.

Will I have the mask on when I wake up?



Sometimes people need a different mask on for a little bit longer when they wake up, but it is a smaller one. This is usually only for a little while until you are properly awake. This is because you might just need to breathe a little more oxygen until you are wide awake.

Some people say the mask smells like Fruit!

Will my voice sound the same?



It may sound a bit croaky at first, this is because your throat may be a bit dry and a little bit sore, but once you have recovered from your operation you will sound exactly the same as before.

We hope this has answered some of your questions but please ask us if you have any more.

