

Dr Aubrey Bristow – Anaesthesia Consent



Patient label

Statement of anaesthetist:

I have discussed with the patient / their parent / guardian :

- 1 Pre anaesthetic preparation for (procedure) _____
- 2 The anaesthetic including alternative forms appropriate for the procedure
- 3 Any regional or local nerve blocks, their benefits and risks
- 4 Any specific monitoring in addition to routine monitoring
- 5 Post anaesthetic care
- 6 Additional procedures
- 7 Specific risks related to the patient or the anaesthetic technique
- 8 Potential side effects

I have discussed the side effects and complications of anaesthesia on the back of this form. The patient / parent / guardian has agreed the following anaesthetic management:

I have explained the following specific risks:

Signed _____

Date _____

Statement of patient / parent / guardian

I have had the opportunity to discuss my / my child's anaesthetic care with Dr Bristow. I agree to the management plan set out above. I understand that this may need to be changed or amended for clinical reasons.

Signed _____

Date _____

Name (please print) _____

Risks of Anaesthesia

A general anaesthetic is very safe. Universal monitoring, medical preassessment and good training have reduced the risk of general anaesthesia to about 1 in 100,000, the same as the risk of being knocked down by a car living in London for two years. However, for most patients an anaesthetic is an unusual and worrying event.

There are a number of relatively common self limiting side effects:

- Nausea, especially in women and day case procedures
- Shivering in recovery
- Small bruises from the cannula or tube in your hand
- Muzziness, malaise or headache. This tends to occur in specific patients & with dehydration

Some issues may arise with specific anaesthetic procedures:

- Sore throat if you are intubated (a breathing tube in your throat)
- Urinary retention especially with spinal surgery
- Retained chest secretions with larger operations

Major complications are very rare and include:

- Airway difficulties – I will examine you to assess if this is likely.
- Thromboembolism – clots in the legs or lungs. Minimised with stocking, boots and drugs
- Injury to the skin and joints – we will protect and pad your skin
- Allergies to drugs – minimised by taking an accurate history
- Damage to teeth – unlikely unless you have crowns or loose teeth
- Awareness – minimised by monitoring the brain where possible
- Confusion and delirium – mostly over 70 and minimised by EEG monitoring and certain drugs
- Heart attacks and strokes – normally restricted to patients with previous illnesses
- Injury to the lungs, windpipe and major vessels – very uncommon

Some patients are concerned about slow recovery and previous reports of low blood pressure but these are rarely a concern. I will discuss any specific risks with you, and only advise you have an anaesthetic where the benefits justify so doing.

Regional anaesthesia:

This includes epidurals, spinals and caudals. These injections are very effective at controlling pain and may have significant benefits including reducing bleeding, infection, deep vein thrombosis and the need for other drugs.

Risks include bleeding, infection and nerve damage. The blood pressure may fall but I will correct it.

Blocks may also make it difficult to pass urine and make your legs weak until the block wears off. If you are having a daycase procedure this may delay your discharge. Prolonged blockade is very rare.

If opiates are added to the epidural you may get itching and nausea. Your breathing will need to be regularly checked as it can be suppressed

Some doctors claim patients can get backache but this is disputed and these injections are used for the treatment of back pain

Local anaesthetic blocks:

These involve injecting local anaesthetic around a nerve, and are normally undertaken under sedation or general anaesthetic. Using ultrasound and specially designed needles makes it very safe, with a small risk of bleeding or nerve injury. I will inform you of any specific risks if they apply.

