Pediatric Anesthesiologists



Michael Biggerstaff, MD



Michael L. Holdeman, MD



James McLane, MD



John A. Narron, III, MD



Marc A. Pilato, MD



Jeffrey W. Robb, MD



Adrienne Singleton, MD, MPH



www.ecaa.com 252-752-2140



Pediatric Anesthesia is like...flying a kite

Just like flying a kite, General Anesthesia is divided into three phases. Our Pediatric Anesthesiologists specialize in making children safe during each of these phases. You will be contacted by the hospital the afternoon prior to surgery with instructions on when to arrive and when to stop eating and drinking. It is important to follow these instructions closely to ensure we can proceed with your child's procedure. Your composure and understanding as a parent is crucial, because a calm parent means a calm and safer child.





Before surgery, you and your child will meet with the anesthesiologist to go over your child's medical history and a physical examination. The best anesthetic for your child will be selected based on this evaluation and the procedure being performed. Please use this opportunity to ask any questions you may have. A Child Life expert will then show your child his operating room accessories; a special gown, hat, and breathing mask. Some children receive a sedative to calm them 15-20 minutes before the procedure. This medicine usually makes your child not remember going to the operating room.



The Flight

Your child is then moved to the operating room; only in very rare circumstances accompanied by parents. After safety monitors are placed, the breathing mask is used to give your child anesthetic gases to "go to sleep." Once your child is asleep and feeling no pain, an IV will be started to administer pain medicines and fluids. During surgery, the anesthesiologist and anesthesia team will constantly be monitoring your child's heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate, and oxygen levels. Anesthesia is given throughout the procedure to keep your child as comfortable as possible.



The Landing

After surgery, the anesthesiologist will turn off the anesthesia to wake your child up, and take them to the recovery room. Nurses and the anesthesiologist will monitor your child's condition to ensure a comfortable and smooth transition from an anesthetized state to a fully awakened state. Although each person has a different experience with anesthesia, your child could feel groggy, irritated, nauseous, or scared as he wakes up. Your composure and understanding as a parent is crucial, because a calm parent means a calm and safer child.