

TYPES OF ANAESTHESIA

All patients are assessed pre-operatively to establish the safest and most appropriate anaesthetic technique for each individual. This will be fully discussed with you.

There are two main types of anaesthesia that can be used for a total hip replacement: general anaesthesia and regional anaesthesia.

(1) General Anaesthesia

Advantages:

1. The patient is completely unaware for the operative period.
2. The surgeon is free to operate on a completely still patient.

Disadvantages:

1. All the risks of general anaesthesia.
2. Damage to teeth or crowns.
3. Nausea.
4. Sore throat.
5. Allergy problems.
6. Detrimental effects on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.

(2) Regional Anaesthesia - Spinal or Epidural Anaesthesia

Advantages:

1. Good pain relief post-operatively.
2. Low blood pressure during the procedure and no surges of blood pressure.
3. Better for patients with lung disease.
4. No sore throat or airway problems.
5. Reduced incidence of venous thrombosis.

Disadvantages:

1. The patient must accept being aware of the procedure.
2. Sometimes it is unsafe in heart disease.
3. The awake patient can be distracting to the surgeon. However the patient can be sedated.
4. There is a risk of urinary retention.

More information about anaesthesia at:-www.rcoa.ac.uk

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