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Ensuring Correct Surgery

This pamphlet will help you to understand what will happen before your surgery and how your doctors and nurses are taking steps to make sure that everything goes as planned.

Days to a couple of hours before your surgery.....

Review all of the information on the Consent Form before you sign it. If you are not sure about anything, ask the staff.



You, or your guardian, must sign a consent form before any surgery can take place. It should be written in words that you can understand.

Many of your questions will be answered by reading the consent form. Here are some good questions to ask in order to better understand your procedure:

1. What is the name of the procedure that will be done?

2. Where or what body part will be operated on? (Write down if it is the left or right side, if needed.)

3. Are there any alternatives to surgery?

4. What are the risks of this surgery?

5. What is likely to happen if I don't have the surgery?

6. Who is in charge of the surgical team? (Write the name here.)

7. About how long will it take to recover after the surgery?

8. Will there be any side-effects?

The doctor or another member of the surgical team may need to make a mark with a pen on the part of your body where the surgery will happen. This should be done **BEFORE** you go into the operating room.



Some doctors will sign their name or initials. Some doctors will make an "X" or "Yes" mark on the correct body part.

Check that the mark does not rub off. It will be very important for the doctors and nurses to see the mark before the surgery commences. Tell your doctor or nurse if the mark rubs or washes off before the surgery.

An hour, or less, before the surgery...

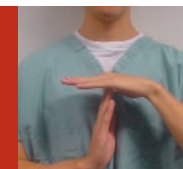


Before the surgery, a doctor or nurse will ask you to say your name, date of birth and the part of your body that will be operated on.

Don't be alarmed by these questions; the staff know who you are. This is how they make sure they have everything right.



Just before the surgery begins...



Just before the surgery begins, everyone in the treatment room will take a short "team time out" and check for the last time that they have the right patient and are doing the right operation on the right body part. You may be asleep for this part.

The doctors and nurses are taking these important steps to make sure that everything goes as planned for your surgery.

