

Dr Brett Pearce MBBS FRCA FANZCA

Consultant Anaesthetist

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Information for Patients

Background

Following completion of my medical degree at Monash University, I spent 12 years in the United Kingdom where I completed higher training in anaesthesia, studying in Edinburgh and Newcastle upon Tyne. I have worked as a consultant anaesthetist since 2012. Most of my work is undertaken at Austin Health, a University Teaching Hospital in Melbourne with some private work mostly at Warringal Hospital.

I am Deputy Head of Anaesthesia at The Surgery Centre, Austin Health and am an Honorary Clinical Lecturer at Melbourne University Medical School.

I am a skilled anaesthetist specializing in providing anaesthesia for complex surgery and in particular hepato-biliary surgery. I am one of 9 anaesthetists currently credentialled to perform liver transplant surgery in Victoria. I also have a keen interest in pain management.

I have a strong academic interest and has published over 20 peer-reviewed papers. I am actively engaged in teaching and training the next generation of anaesthetists, and am one of the deputy directors of the anaesthesia department at Austin Health.

Your Surgery

Your surgeon will have already explained your procedure and the need for general anaesthesia.

Most patients will receive a call from me prior to the day of surgery to discuss your anaesthetic. Otherwise I will meet you on the day of surgery.

Please bring your medications to hospital. Please also refrain from smoking and drinking alcohol 24 hours prior to surgery and if you feel unwell please contact your surgeon.

Please ensure that you have a responsible adult to pick you up from the hospital when you are discharged.

Fasting

You should have nothing to eat for 6 hours before your surgery (including chewing gum). This means if your case is in the morning you should not eat after midnight and if your case is in the afternoon you should not eat after 7:00am.

You may have one glass of water or black coffee or black tea (**no milk** or creamer) up until 2 hours prior to surgery ie 6:00 am for morning cases or 11:00 am for afternoon cases unless instructed otherwise.

You may have a sip of water with your usual medications at their usual time even within 2 hours of surgery.

Medications

Please bring all of your medications with you. Most medicines should be taken as per normal on the day of surgery with a sip of water unless instructed otherwise. The exceptions to this are Blood thinning tablets (eg aspirin, warfarin clopidogrel), Diabetic Medications (including tablets and insulin) and diuretics eg frusemide, spironolactone. If you are on these tablets, you should obtain specific advice on taking these medications.

Risks of Anaesthesia

Anaesthesia is a very safe procedure and Australia is one of the safest places in the world to have anaesthesia and surgery. However, nothing in life is without risk. Common problems with anaesthesia, include a sore throat, nausea or vomiting and pain. We will give you painkillers and anti-nausea drugs before you wake up to reduce this risk. Of course if you feel pain or nausea it will be treated promptly.

Serious harm is rare in anaesthesia. These risks include anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction), lung aspiration of stomach contents which may cause serious lung injury, (this is why anaesthetists insist on fasting preoperatively) or heart problems.

There may be other specific risks associated with certain procedures eg nerve blocks or complex surgery eg risk of blood transfusion. These will be discussed with you prior to your surgery

Fees

The anaesthesia fee is determined by multiple factors. To add complexity many health funds have different regulations and different fee structures. I have tried to even this out and in order to keep my fees transparent, fair and simple.

Furthermore they only apply to those patients with Private Health Insurance. For those without private health insurance or having cosmetic procedures please contact me for a quote.

Please note the figures below are a guide only. Furthermore discounts may be provided for those suffering hardship or undergoing multiple procedures

Approximate Out-Of Pocket Expenses

Minor Surgery	eg Colonoscopy, ERCP, Carpal Tunnel Surgery	\$75
Intermediate Surgery	eg Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, Hernias	\$150
Major Surgery	eg Pancreatic Surgery, Liver Surgery	\$300

Contacting Me

If you need to contact me please notify your surgeon's rooms. They will leave a message to call or email and I will endeavour to get back to you when I can.