



Janeway Children's Pre-anesthetic Sedation

What is it?

Pre-anesthetic sedation refers to medications that are given before anesthesia to patients with high anxiety, fear, aggression or other issues that might require it. This may be recommended by the doctor or nurse, or you may request it for your child. It calms and relaxes the child to make the start of an anesthetic more pleasant.

How does your child receive the medication?

Medication can be given several ways:

- By mouth or by G-tube/ feeding tube if your child already has one in place.
- Sprayed into the nose.
- In rare circumstances by injection.

What to Expect?

- Your child may get drowsy and occasionally fall asleep.
- The sedation makes them drowsy and off balanced, so you will stay with your child until they go into the operating room.
- Once the medication is given, your child will be transported by wheelchair or stretcher for their safety.
- Staff will continue to monitor your child after the medication is given.

Parental/guardian Participation

- Parents/guardians are encouraged and expected to participate where possible in their child's care.
- For children that refuse to take the medication, parents/guardians may need to assist staff in holding their child so medication can be administered safely.

Side-effects of pre-operative sedation

- As a result of the sedation your child may be drowsy after their anesthetic which might mean a longer stay in the recovery room.
- Rarely a small percentage of children become hyper active or agitated as opposed to sleepy after receiving the sedation.
- Rarely your child could also become too sleepy and need support with their breathing.

