

Having an Operation



You have come to stay in hospital while you have an operation. You can bring some grownups with you, like mummy and daddy.



What happens before my operation?

Some doctors will come and see you. Some nurses will weigh you to see how heavy you are and check your temperature and heartbeat. You will need to put on some pyjamas or a special gown.

You may need to have some cream, called 'EMLA cream', put on to the skin on the back of your hand, and a soft plaster put on top so that it does not squirt out or rub off. The cream is left on for about an hour. When the

cream has worked, the soft plaster is taken off and the cream is wiped away. The area of your skin that the cream has touched will feel numb, so you will not be able to feel it.

What happens when it is time for my operation?

When it is time for your operation you will need to go to the anaesthetic room, where you will go to sleep. You can walk, be pushed on the bed or carried by your mum or dad.

6-7-8 year-olds Hospital guide.

One grownup can come in this room with you, as well as your nurse, until you are fast asleep.

You will see lots of different people wearing pyjamas. They will check who you are and ask your mum or dad some questions.



If you wanted to bring a book or something to look at then you could read it while they are asking your mum or dad the questions.

They may need to put a little plastic tube, called a cannula, into the back of your hand. They will use the area where the 'EMLA' cream has been so you should not be able to feel it.

You will then be given some medicine to help you to fall asleep.

What happens after my operation?

You will wake up in a big room called 'recovery'. A nurse in pyjamas will look after you.

When you start to wake up, the nurse will go and get the grownup that came with you. They can sit by the bed as you wake up.

The nurse will want to see how well you are breathing, so they will put a soft, spongy 'peg' onto your finger or toe. This will put some numbers on a monitor to show how well you are breathing air into your body. It will also show how fast your heart is beating.

6-10 year-olds Hospital guide.

When you wake up, you may have a mask over your nose and mouth giving you some special air, called oxygen.

You will have a bandage over the cannula to stop you from hurting yourself.

The cannula will stay in place until you are feeling much better and nearly ready for going home. This is so that the nurses can give you some medicine if you are feeling sick or sore.

If you feel sore or sick when you wake up, tell the nurse and they can give you some medicine to make you feel better.

When can I go back to the ward?

You can go back to the ward when you are awake and feeling comfortable.

The nurse from the ward will come and collect you on your bed, and then you will be pushed back to the ward.

You may be able to eat and drink when you get back to the ward, but you will have to ask your nurse before you do to check that it is ok.

When you are feeling better, you will be able to get changed into your own pyjamas if you wore a gown to theatre.

The nurse on the ward will be able to tell you when you might be going home.





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