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Anesthesia Letter

Dear Surgical Guest,

Welcome to The Orthopaedic & Spine Center of Southern Colorado. Please review the following information from your anesthesiologist. Section (A.) details the pre-surgery anesthesia consultation. Section (B.) reviews the various options for surgical anesthesia. Based on your surgery and your consultation with the anesthesiologists, some of these options may not be available to you.

A. Pre-surgery anesthesia consult:

1. You will meet with your anesthesiologist prior to your surgical procedure.
2. Your anesthesiologist will review your medical history.
3. Based on your medical conditions (if any) and the surgical procedure your anesthesiologist will discuss with the types of anesthesia that would be appropriate for you.
4. There are several types of anesthesia and not all are appropriate for every person or procedure. A decision will be made between you and your anesthesiologist as to what the best type of anesthetic would be for you.

B. Types of anesthesia that the anesthesiologist may discuss with you:

1. Monitored Anesthesia Care
 - a. You will be under the care of an anesthesiologist, this may include varying levels of sedation, pain medications, and medications for anxiety as necessary. This also includes monitoring of blood pressure, oxygenation, pulse, and mental state.
2. IV Sedation
 - a. Moderate or deep sedation may be used for some procedures. Medications are administered through an IV to decrease anxiety and induce a state of relaxation. You may feel drowsy and even fall asleep, you may or may not remember some of the procedure.
3. Local Infiltration
 - a. Anesthetizing agents are injected or infiltrated directly into a small area of the body, around the surgical site.
4. Regional Anesthesia
 - a. Your physician anesthesiologist makes an injection near a cluster of nerves to numb the area of the body that requires surgery.
 - b. You may be given sedation, or a general anesthetic may still be required in combination with a regional anesthetic.



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- c. There are numerous types of regional anesthesia, some are listed below
 - i. Spinal anesthesia: an anesthetic agent is injected in the spinal subarachnoid space (near the spinal nerves) to prevent sensation of pain.
 - ii. Epidural anesthesia: a small catheter is inserted into the epidural space (near the spinal nerves) allowing anesthetic agents to be injected or infused to provide anesthesia in the area of the procedure.
 - iii. IV Regional: local anesthetic agents are injected intravenously (IV) into the operative extremity, to provide anesthesia in the area of the procedure. Used for some Hand and wrist surgery only.
 - iv. Nerve Block: local anesthetic agents are injected into specific areas to inhibit nerve transmission.
- 5. General Anesthesia
 - a. In general anesthesia, you are unconscious and have no awareness or sensations. There are a variety of general anesthetic drugs. Some are gases or vapors inhaled through a breathing mask or tube and others are medications introduced through an IV.