



## Balwyn Anaesthesia Group

**Suite 504, 365 Little Collins Street, Melbourne**

**Phone: (03) 8375 8145**

**Email: [admin@balwynanaesthesia.com](mailto:admin@balwynanaesthesia.com)**

**Fax: (03) 8678 1018**

## Information for Patients Undergoing Anaesthesia for Caesarean Section

Anaesthesia may be performed through a variety of methods. The type of anaesthesia required for your procedure will be dependent on the procedure and your physical condition. The types of anaesthesia available are:

**Spinal or Epidural Anaesthesia:** This is by far the most common type of anaesthetic for caesarean sections. A local anaesthetic drug is injected through a needle into the middle of your lower back to numb the nerves from the chest down to the toes for several hours, rendering the lower half of the body numb to pain. During the procedure, you may experience some indiscriminate sensations and some 'tugging' movements. However, there should not any discomfort during the caesarean section.

**General Anaesthesia:** This is an uncommon approach of anaesthesia for caesarean sections. Anaesthetic drugs are either injected or delivered via inhalation, rendering a state of induced unconsciousness. Throughout the procedure, you will be monitored closely to ensure the safe delivery of anaesthesia.

### Risks and Complications of Anaesthesia

Spinal and Epidural anaesthesia are very safe and the vast majority of patients having caesarean sections undergo these forms of anaesthesia. Some of the potential risks associated with spinal or epidural anaesthesia include bruising around the site of injection, headaches, bleeding or infection around the spine. The risk of nerve damage, particularly permanent nerve damage, is rare.

### Preoperative preparations

You are required to fast from food for at least 6 hours preoperative. Clear fluid can be consumed for up to 2 hours preoperatively.

Your anaesthetist will discuss with you regarding medications that you should abstain on the day of the surgery.

**Your anaesthetist will attempt to contact you via the phone to discuss your anaesthesia before your surgery. If you have any concerns regarding your anaesthesia or risk/complications, we will discuss these with you.**



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### Anaesthetic Fees

Our invoice will be separate to your obstetrician's and hospital fees.

Anaesthetic fees are determined by a variety of factors including the complexity of surgery, the complexity of anaesthesia, health and age of the patient, and length of surgery.

In most instances, Medicare and the health funds do not cover the entire cost of the anaesthetic and there may be an "out of pocket" payment.

**Our standard "out of pocket" payment for caesarean sections is \$500**

\*These fees applicable to most major private health funds **except for Latrobe Health, NIB, Frank health, Mildura health**. The gap payment for these funds may be up to \$1000.

### CONSENT

I understand that the anaesthetic fees mentioned are an estimate and may be subject to variation.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to confirm with my health insurance fund the level of cover that I have and that I am responsible for any fees not covered by my health fund.

I acknowledge that I have received the information regarding out of pocket expenses and it is my responsibility to ensure payment of all fees within 14 days from the date of the invoice.

Signature of Patient/Parent/Guardian:..... Date:...../...../.....

Name of Patient/Parent/Guardian:.....

Please return this form by:		
<b>Mail:</b> Balwyn Anaesthesia Group Suite 504 365 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000	<b>Email:</b>  <a href="mailto:admin@balwynanaesthesia.com">admin@balwynanaesthesia.com</a>	<b>Fax:</b>  (03) 8678 1018