GENERAL ANAESTHESIA

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DEFINITION

Is a reversible and controlled state of unconsciousness and loss of sensation to pain or surgical stimulus following the administration of anaesthetic agents.
EARLY HISTORY
Agents used in Ancient Anaesthetics

- Opium
- Alcohol
- Cannabis
William T.G. Morton’s Ether Inhaler

October 17, 1846: First public demonstration of the use of ether in anesthesia at Massachusetts Gen Hosp. with Dr. J.C. Warren in attendance.

Although Warren’s account attributed Morton, Dr Crawford Long of Jefferson, Georgia used ether in surgery in 1841

Painting by Robert C. Hinckley, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Boston
Modern Anaesthesitics

2 Principal classes
• Inhalational anaesthetics
• Intravenous anaesthetics
Triad of General anaesthesia

- Hypnosis
- Analgesia
- Muscle relaxation
Pre anaesthetic assessment

- Medical history
- Current medication
- Previous anaesthetics
- Current physical status
- Starvation
- State of teeth
- Anatomical problems
- Pathological test/ x-rays
- Informed consent

ASA Classification{1-5}
Anaesthetic Strategies

• Induction
• Maintenance
• Recovery
Induction Agents

Intravenous
- Thiopentone
- Propofol
- Etomidate
- Ketamine

Inhalational
- Sevoflurane
- Isoflurane
- Enflurane
- Desflurane
- Halothane
- Nitrous oxide
Types of Induction

- Awake
- Rapid sequence\{crash\}
- Inhalational
- Combined IV/ inhalational
Stages of Anaesthesia

Awake

Analgesia

excitement

anaesthesia

Coma

Death
Complications

- Perivenous injection
- Intra arterial injection
- Damage to teeth
- Respiratory depression
- aspiration/ regurgitation
- Cardiovascular collapse

- Laryngospasms
- Bronchospasms
- Hypoxia
- Hypothermia
- Nerve injury
- Sore throat
- Laryngeal damage
- Malignant hyperpyrexia
- Nausea/vomiting
References

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• Butler J, Sen A; Best evidence topic. Cricoid pressure in emergency rapid sequence induction; emerg med J. 2005 Nov;22(11):815-6
• DOH; Good practice in consent implementation guide: consent to examination or treatment; department of health; Nov 2001
• Fox, Andrew J. David J. Rowbotham; “Recent advances in anaesthesia” British Medical Journal 319(Aug 28 1999): 557-560