

What is Intravenous Sedation (IVS) ?

Intravenous sedation is to inject the medicine into the vein for depressing the central nervous system or reflex system. Patients would be in a state of expected unconsciousness without any discomfort.

What are the procedures of IVS as performed by the doctor ?

1. Assess the patient before procedure and fully explain the IVS procedures and risks.
2. Provide instructions on pre-op preparation (such as fasting time) and post-op care after discharge.
3. Arrange patient to sign Informed Consent for the IVS.
4. Provide adequate monitoring and any necessary treatment during the procedure.
5. Transfer patient to recovery area and arrange further observation if necessary.

What are the risks and complications of IVS ?

The risk of anesthesia varies in different surgeries and between individual patients. Pre-existing diseases will lead to different levels of risks. Attending doctor will discuss with the patient the use of IVS and ascertain patient's understanding of the following common risks and some rare but dangerous situations.

1. Obtunded protective reflexes in case of deeper sedation, for example, protective coughing to expel secretions or vomitus. If there is residual food in the stomach due to inadequate fasting time, the stomach contents could be vomited out and flow into the lungs, causing aspiration pneumonia.
2. Depressed breathing by sedative drugs, leading to airway obstruction due to relaxation of surrounding muscles. This could result in breathing difficulties and inadequate intake of oxygen.
3. Depressed circulatory system by sedative drugs, resulting in low blood pressure and unstable heart rate. This could lead to inadequate blood supply to heart or brain causing heart attack or stroke.
4. Individual patients may have unpredictable reactions to drugs, especially the elderly, the infirm and the patients with chronic illness.
5. The sedative effect may last longer than expected and make the patient feel sleepy even after the procedure is finished.
6. Allergic reaction (rare) to any of the drugs used during the procedure. This may cause itchy skin rash, low blood pressure, and sometimes breathing difficulties.

What preparation is needed before IVS ?

1. No solid food before the procedure for 6 hours.
2. No water before the procedure for 3 hours.

What patient should note after IVS ?

1. Vital signs, such as blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation index, should be normal.
2. Should be fully awake and conscious, move freely, able to eat without nausea and vomiting.
3. Should be able to pass urine (especially after procedure on urinary system)
4. Should be accompanied by an adult to go home.
5. Should not drive, operate machine or sign legal documents within at least 24 hours.
6. Should attend follow-up appointment as scheduled.

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor. Evangel Hospital reserves the right to amend this leaflet without prior notice. We welcome suggestions or enquiries on the information provided in this leaflet. Please contact our Healthcare professionals so that we could follow up and make improvement.

Reference

Hospital Authority: "Sedation for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedure: What should you know?" (2020)

Smart patient: https://www.ekg.org.hk/pilic/public/Anaes_PILIC/Anaes_SedationforDiagnosticandTherapeuticProcedures_0238_eng.pdf (20-07-2023)