



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR ANESTHESIOLOGIST

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Many anesthesiologists and anesthesiologists have experience in anesthesia for Little People. However, most have little to no experience. Tactfully bringing up a few questions may enhance the anesthetic experience associated with your or your child's operation. The questions are divided into several areas where special attention may be appropriate.

DIAGNOSIS 1. Are they familiar with the type of short stature of the intended patient? (For that matter, do YOU know your own diagnosis?) 2. Do they possess special knowledge of the condition, or have they done any reading, or are they willing to learn about the facts pertinent to anesthesia? 3. Do you or they know where to get more information?

POSITIONING 1. Does your neck require special care in handling while you are asleep (example, neck instability in spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia) and, if so, are they able to address this? 2. Do you have certain joints that do not completely bend or straighten (example: incomplete elbow extension

in achondroplasia)? Special care may be required for intravenous lines, IV boards, blood pressure cuffs, etc.. 3. Do they have a size of blood pressure cuff that fits you and works?

AIRWAY AND BREATHING 1. Does your condition predispose you to blockage of breathing in the throat and, if so, are they prepared? 2. If you have a condition with neck problems, are they aware that it may be dangerous to bend your neck back to insert a tube into the trachea? 3. Does your condition cause a small chest with incomplete expansion and are they aware?:

DRUG DOSES 1. Are they going to calculate drug doses based on your weight rather than your age? 2. Are they aware that some individuals with short stature seem to need lower doses of atropine and related drugs, doses related to size rather than age?

TYPE OF ANESTHESIA 1. Do they know that some individuals with short stature may have difficulties with spinal anesthesia due to back anatomy?



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While not all questions are appropriate for all short stature conditions, asking these questions beforehand may prevent problems later.



Different, Not Less

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had to endure. But just hear at what a positive mind can accomplish: my doctor told me I needed two ankle operations over 12 years ago, and somehow, although still plagued by arthritis, I can do more than I ever could before. My doctors also warned me that I should be experiencing limited movement and intense pain in my hips. That was over eight years ago. Positive thinking is what is really important. You are an important person. You have many talents and many gifts, but it is up to you to harness them and to make them whole; to mold them and hone them. Then, it is up to you to share them. Try this: the next time someone stares at you, simply smile back at them. I promise you, if you sincerely try, more times than not, those people will smile back. And in the end, isn't that what's really important?



Andrea and Amanda Salinas. They are twin Achon. Hispanic girls, 24 month old, from the Dalworth Chapter. They stole the show at the District 8 Houston Meeting.

Transplant

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for a transplant. He was then told by USC, in early August, that he was declined.

Fortunately, through his mother's persistent efforts, Jason was accepted at UCLA as a viable recipient on their waiting list. What that means, is that while Jason 'qualified' as a possible recipient, he still needs a donor; either of a young child (aged 4 to 6) or from an LP.

Jason, who recently graduated from chef school, has his life on hold and is now on oxygen therapy in order to breathe. He has not been able to attend any LPA functions because of his condition, and in fact, cannot travel from home since no one knows when a suitable donor will be available. Cards and letters from LPA members would go a long way toward encouraging his recovery and would really mean a lot to him. His address is 4425 Union Street in La Canada, California, 91011.

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