

On being asked whether the presence of concomitant disease (diabetes, hypertension, asthma, epilepsy, liver disease); being an alcoholic, smoker or of geriatric age group increases the risk during anesthesia, 87% felt that the risk during anesthesia is increased. When asked from where they get this information from, 53% people knew it before hand, 21% had information given by surgeon, 13% were informed by relatives and friends, 11% came to know through media and newspaper and 2% did not respond.

People's Perception about Anesthesia

Regarding peoples insight about the different methods of anesthetic techniques currently in practice, 51% were aware about general as well as regional anesthesia.

Patients concerns regarding anesthesia and its management were assessed by a multiple response question. Asked about their primary concerns and fears, 34% said they were afraid of waking up in the middle of surgery, 33% about getting pain during the operation, 33% being unable to get up from the bed for a long time as a result of anesthesia while 35% thought anesthesia affected clarity of thoughts and impairment of judgment.

36% of the people were concerned they might not be able to wake up from anesthesia. 33% were afraid they might suffer from nausea or headaches as a after affect of anesthesia. 51% were afraid of having backache because of spinal/epidural anaesthesia. This fear may be due to their past exposure to anesthesia or they have heard from relatives and friends.

When asked about the information they would like to acquire during the pre-operative visit by the anesthetist 11% did not want any details but the other 89% wanted to know when they would recover from anesthesia.

TABLE 3.
PERCEPTION ABOUT ANESTHETISTS AND THEIR ROLE

Question	Group (1) n = 39	Group (2) n = 54	Group (3) n = 7

• Have you or your close relative ever been operated before			
1. Yes	22	43	5
2. No	17	11	2

• Do you think anesthesia is necessary for surgery?			
1. Yes	35	53	7
2. No	4	0	0
3. Don't Know	0	1	0

• Who will anesthetize you?			
1. Operating Surgeon	0	2	1
2. Anesthetist	37	49	6
3. Nurse	0	0	0
4. Don't Know	2	3	0

• Role of Anesthetists			
1. Only Anesthetizes	4	6	0
2. Monitors the person during operation	33	46	7
3. Leaves the O.R after anesthetizing	0	0	0
4. Don't Know	2	2	0

• Is there any role of Anesthetists in Painless Labor?			
1. Yes	33	48	6
2. No	2	3	0
3. Don't Know	4	3	1

• In there role of anesthetist in Relieving long standing pains related to cancer, back, sciatica etc?			
1. Yes	16	31	3
2. No	15	12	0
3. Don't Know	8	11	4

• Where did you get the information regarding Anesthetists and Anesthesia			
1. Knew it before hand	21	29	3
2. Was told by the Surgeon	9	8	4
3. Was informed by friends or relatives	3	10	0
4. Came to know from TV or newspaper	6	5	0
