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ANAESTHESIA INFORMED CONSENT FORM

(Spinal, Epidural, Caudal and Nerve Block Anaesthesia)

Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

Type of Block: _____

1. Why am I having anaesthesia?

Anaesthesia is given so you are comfortable and feel no pain during your operation or procedure. The anaesthesiologist will choose the best type for you depending on your health, the type of surgery, and what you prefer.

You may receive:

- General anaesthesia (being fully asleep)
- Spinal, epidural or caudal block
- Nerve block in the arm, leg, shoulder or eye
- Light sedation
- Or a combination of these

2. What are Spinal, Epidural and Caudal blocks?

These are injections given in your lower back:

- Spinal: A single injection into the fluid around the spinal cord. It numbs everything below the waist.
- Epidural: An injection or a thin tube (catheter) placed near the spinal cord so medicine can be given continuously.
- Caudal: An injection near the tailbone.

What you will notice: Your legs will feel numb and heavy. You may not be able to move them for several hours. You will probably need a urinary catheter (tube in the bladder) during this time.

3. What is a Peripheral Nerve Block?

Medicine is injected close to the nerves that supply feeling to your arm, shoulder, leg, eye or abdomen. Ultrasound or a nerve stimulator is usually used to guide the needle safely. It can be a single injection or a catheter for longer pain relief after surgery.

4. Benefits

- Less need for general anaesthesia and strong painkillers (opioids)
- Better pain control after the operation
- Faster recovery
- Fewer side effects than being completely asleep

5. Possible Risks and Side Effects

All types of anaesthesia have some risks. Serious problems are uncommon, but they can happen. Your risks may be higher if you are overweight, have bleeding problems, spine disease, infection, or take blood-thinning medicines.

Common risks (can happen with any block)

The block does not work completely (may need extra anaesthesia or general anaesthetic)

Low blood pressure, feeling sick, vomiting, itching or headache

Bleeding or infection at the injection site

Allergic reaction to the medicines

Rare but serious risks (all types)

Temporary numbness or weakness (about 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 5,000 people), permanent nerve damage (less than 1 in 10,000), seizures, heart problems, stroke, paralysis or death.

Extra risks with spinal / epidural / caudal blocks

Severe headache that may need treatment with a blood patch

Back pain

Blood clot or infection near the spine

Very rarely: permanent nerve damage or meningitis

Extra risks with nerve blocks

Nerve damage (temporary or permanent)

Local anaesthetic toxicity (can cause seizures or heart problems)

Collapsed lung (especially with shoulder blocks)

Temporary drooping eyelid or weak breathing muscle on one side

Prolonged numbness or weakness

6. Other Options

General anaesthesia only

Painkillers without any block

Local anaesthetic with light sedation only

No anaesthesia (usually not recommended)

7. My Consent

I have read this form. I understand the benefits, the risks and the other options available.

All my questions have been answered.

I agree to have anaesthesia, including spinal, epidural, caudal and/or nerve block anaesthesia (with a possible catheter), as decided by the anaesthesiologist. I allow the doctor to change the plan if it becomes necessary for my safety.

I understand that no guarantees can be given and that anaesthesia always carries some risk. I have told the doctor my full medical history.

Patient/Parent/Gardian	Date:	Signature:
Witness Name:	Date:	Signature:
Anaesthesiologist:	Date:	Signature:

