



Surgery Preparation

Wolfson 2nd Floor, Main OR

Ages 12+



I am going to Wolfson Children's Hospital for surgery.



You will check in and wait for your name to be called. While you wait, you can watch a TV show or use some things you brought from home.



When it is your turn, a nursing assistant will check your temperature, height, and weight.



A nursing assistant will wrap something called a “pulse-ox” on your finger to check your oxygen level. It looks like a Band-Aid and will light up red.



The nursing assistant will place a “blood pressure cuff” around your arm to check your blood pressure. It will squeeze your arm tight for a few seconds.



Your nurse and doctor will listen to your heart and lungs.



In your preop room, you will change into clean hospital gown and socks. Next, you will meet the doctors and nurses who will be taking care of you.



You will need to get what is called an “IV” while you are in your preop room. An IV is a small, flexible straw that goes inside one of your veins. The doctors will use your IV to give you “anesthesia.”

Anesthesia is the medicine that will make you fall asleep so that you do not feel any part of your surgery.



First, a nurse will tie a rubber band called a “tourniquet” around your arm to help them see your veins better.



Your nurse might use
a "Vein Finder."

This is a machine that
shines a green light on your
skin and shows where your
veins are.



Once the nurse finds the best vein, the nurse will clean the area. This will make your skin feel cold and wet.



Next, the nurse will put your IV in. You will feel the pinch of the needle until the nurse gets the IV in your vein. Once the IV is in the right spot, the needle comes out and the flexible straw is the only thing left under your skin.

During the IV, it can be helpful to take deep breathes in through your nose and out through your mouth, use a stress ball, or hold someone's hand.



Next, the nurse will put tape over your IV to keep it in place.

Then, the nurse will put water through your IV called “saline” to make sure it is working. Some patients say it feels cold that it can taste or smell salty.

Some patients need to have a blood sample taken from their IV before surgery.

Once your IV is done, it may look similar to this.



When it is your turn, a nurse will take you on your bed down this hallway to the room that you will have surgery in. This room is called the “operating room.” Your family will wait for you in the waiting room until you are done.



In the operating room, the doctors and nurses will be dressed in clean, green outfits called “scrubs.”



This is the operating room where you will fall asleep with anesthesia for surgery. The nurses will put your pulse-ox and blood pressure cuff back on before you go to sleep.



The nurses will place three cold and sticky monitors on your chest and side called “leads” to watch my heartbeat.



While you are falling asleep with anesthesia through your IV, the doctor will give you oxygen to breath through a soft mask. They may make your oxygen smell like candy as you fall asleep.

As you are falling asleep, your IV may feel warm.



When you wake up, you may feel tired or groggy.
It will feel like you were asleep for only 5 minutes!
You will wait in this room and see your family again.



Next, you can finally have something to eat and drink!
We have slushies, popsicles, ice cream and other snacks!



You did it!