

# Children's Hospital Video for Surgery

## SCRIPT

8/28/07

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*Dr. Anthony Stallion*

*Pediatric Surgery Staff Surgeon, Children's Hospital*

The journey that a child makes to the hospital for his or her surgery can be uncertain for both the child and the family.

### ***Surgery & Your Child***

#### ***What To Expect, Step by Step***

*Parent: I'm the parent of a child who has been scheduled for surgery at Children's Hospital. From the moment we learned he'd be a candidate for surgery, we've had a lot to think about and a lot of questions....*

*Dr. Anthony Stallion*

*Pediatric Surgery Staff Surgeon, Children's Hospital*

We know you have a lot on your mind. So over the next few minutes we'd like to walk you through the process so you that can be comfortable with what your child will experience -- from the time that they register-- from the time that they come back to be prepared for the surgery-- they meet the surgical team and go in for the surgery-- and then time for recovery. Every step of the way, our medical professionals such as the child life specialists will walk you and your family through all of the processes they will experience. We here at the Children's Hospital Cleveland Clinic are here to make sure that you experience the care, compassion, commitment and heart that is necessary to help you make it through that journey.

*Rakhamaalika Hoffer, MA CCLS*

*Child Life Specialist, Children's Hospital*

As a parent you are uncertain and concerned for the well being of your child. Keep in mind that children pick up on you're emotions so you're strength your confidence, your serene attitude will mean the world to your child. Our team of staff is available to you to guide you along the way. If your child is nervous or anxious please contact the child life department and a specialist is available to help prepare your child, provide age appropriate explanation.

**To Contact a Child Life Specialist call 216-444-0087**

You can also schedule in advance a pre operative tour and they provide suggestions for how you can help your child get ready for their surgery.

### **CHECKING IN –FONT**

*Rakhamaalika Hoffer, MA CCLS*

*Child Life Specialist, Children's Hospital*

When parents arrive at Children's Hospital you will check in at P20 desk located on the 2nd floor of the surgical center. At check in you'll be asked for other pertinent information. The wait at this area can range from 30 minutes to a couple of hours. And this wait time is based on the order of the surgery schedule. You will be provided a pager and this state-of-the-art text paging system allows us to keep you updated throughout your day. You will then be guided to the M20a desk the pediatric waiting area. You will be handed your child's medical file and directed to a private pre-operative holding area.

*Parent:*

*We were told to be here at 8am. Is that when my son will be having surgery?*

*Rakhamaalika Hoffer, MA CCLS*

*Child Life Specialist, Children's Hospital*

You may be asked to arrive up to two hours prior to the time of the scheduled. We often get asked why we need this time. Really, when it comes to surgery, timing is everything. Some procedures take longer-others finish sooner this affects the schedule for the entire day. Please keep in mind that the scheduled surgery time is our best estimate.

**If you are waiting more than one hour, advise the front desk.**

We try to minimize the wait as much as possible because we know that keeping your kids entertained is never easy. The M-20a waiting area has a playroom available for your kids while they wait. Toys, board games, books and puzzles are available.

**We encourage you to bring your child's favorite toy or comfort item.**

## **JUST BEFORE SURGERY**

*Alicia Hajba, RN, BSN  
Pediatric Nursing, Children's Hospital*

We understand the importance of everyone staying together on the day of surgery. So you are brought back to the M20 area in one of our private rooms where the nurse does her assessment, checks you in, checks your vital signs. You are allowed to ask us any questions also to make you feel comfortable. After your done checking in you meet everyone from the surgical team the anesthesiology team and also all the OR nurses so that you will know everyone involved in your child's care while you're here with us that day. Our ten-bed unit is set up in a semicircle. The OR's are directly right behind us and then the waiting area is then just right out to the left. So you're from within a minute to two-minute walk from any area so that everybody's in close proximity.

*Parent:*

*I was really anxious. But the staff really helped guide me through the next several hours.*

*Rakhamaalika Hoffer, MA CCLS  
Child Life Specialist, Children's Hospital*

Your child will be able to eat or drink only up to a certain time before the time of surgery. Parents will be asked numerous times if your child has had anything to eat or drink as per your surgery schedule.

**For safety measures, you must follow food & drink instructions before surgery.**

You will also be asked if your child has had colds, coughs, and fevers.

**Children with cold, fever or cough will not be admitted to surgery.**

We ask this information for the safety of the patient. Multiple staff members check and recheck this information.

- **No solid food, milk, candy or gum up to 8 hours before surgery**
- **No clear liquids up to 2 hours before surgery**
- **No breast milk up to 4 hours before surgery**
  
- **For your child's safety, please follow food & drink instructions.**

### ***Meet the Health Care Team***

Parent:

*One of the concerns that we have and I know my son has is, “ what’s it gonna be like when he gets puts to sleep, will it hurt? How are they gonna do it? “*

*Julie Niezgoda, MD*

*Interim Chairman, Pediatric Anesthesiology Children’s Hospital*

I really know how difficult it is...for any parent and how worried parents are when their children are having surgery. And often times they’re most concerned about the anesthetic and the effects of the anesthetic and how well their child will do with that. Many children will receive a medication to relax them prior to coming back to the operating room and then once their into the operating room we have two ways that we anesthetize children: one is with a mask and the other is with an IV. Your anesthesiologist will review your child’s chart, history and laboratory data and decide what method is best for your child to go to sleep.

*Dr. Anthony Stallion*

*Pediatric Surgery Staff Surgeon, Children’s Hospital*

The surgical team will also be present. That will include the nursing staff which will be present during the entire time your child is asleep and having their operation. They will be there to answer any questions and also to provide hourly updates as to the progress of the surgery. They will also be accompanying your child from the operating room back to the recovery room.

This is a time for parents to ask any last minute questions you may have or revisit any important issues you want to mention.

- **Any member of the team can help answer your questions.**

It is important to remember that you child is never alone.

Parent:

*I wanted to stay with my son for as long as I could before the procedure.... and the staff really put me at ease.*

*Julie Niezgoda, MD*

*Interim Chairman, Pediatric Anesthesiology Children’s Hospital*

Our goal is to make your child’s experience as comfortable as possible. So one of the things that we offer is for one of the parents to accompany their child to the operating room. Now this is for children over the age of six months and you will be with your child until they fall asleep. Then once your child falls asleep, you will go back to the waiting room and wait with the rest of your family and we will continue on with the surgical procedure.

- **Anesthesia is administered with parent present**
- **A Parent may remain until child falls asleep**
- **At the discretion of the anesthesiologist, a parent may accompany a child (over the age of 6 months) to the Operating Room**

### ***During & After Surgery***

Parent (OC):

*I have never been through this before and my son has never been through this before. We don’t know what to expect and we really will depend on the doctors to keep us informed.*

*Alicia Hajba, RN, BSN*

*Pediatric Nursing, Children’s Hospital*

We have two waiting areas here at the Children’s Hospital its either P20 or M20. And depending upon who your surgeon is you will be told to wait in those areas. While your there, the nurses and

the doctors in the OR will call out and give updates about your child to the receptionist and then they will pass that information on to you.

When the surgery is completed the doctor will come out and either talk to you and or talk to you over the telephone. To let you know that your child is finished with surgery and how everything went and to give you all the pertinent information that you need to know. While the surgeon is doing that the anesthesiologist will be waking up your child. They will then bring them to M20 in one of our ten beds. Where we as the nursing staff will check your child in and make sure everything is going smoothly and then we will call for you to come in within minutes of their arrival.

- **Families are reunited as soon as possible in the recovery area**
- **A nurse will guide you through the recovery process**

*Julie Niezgoda, MD*

*Interim Chairman, Pediatric Anesthesiology Children's Hospital*

While in recovery room, your anesthesia team will review your child's pain control as well as what to expect as your child is waking up.

*Alicia Hajba, RN, BSN*

*Pediatric Nursing, Children's Hospital*

Every child wakes up differently from anesthesia. Some will wake up very nice as if they woke up from a nap. And others can wake up and be extremely agitated. We do ask you that when you come in if your child is sleeping to let them remain sleeping and to wake up on their own.

- **Due to anesthesia your child may experience some confusion or agitation**
- **Please allow your child to rest**

If they are extremely agitated then we as the nursing staff along with you as the parent its very helpful to talk to your child in a very reassuring and calming manor. Depending upon your child's procedure the nursing staff as well as the medical staff will do an assessment and decide when your child is ready to be released from the hospital or if need be then you'll be admitted to stay the night upstairs.

- **Nurses will provide instructions after surgery**
- **Ask questions**
- **You'll receive a follow-up phone call**

When you do go home you are given a prewritten instruction sheet that is discussed with you so that you feel comfortable and understand all of your instructions upon discharge. And we also provide a follow up discharge phone call a day or two after you go home to answer any questions that might come up and to make sure your recovery is going smoothly.

*Robert Wyllie, MD*

*Physician-in-Chief, Children's Hospital*

We want you to know that as you go through this surgical process the Children's Hospital staff is behind you every step of the way. And we'll be with you and your child taking the best care possible. I'd like to thank you for spending a few moments with us today and rest assured we have your child's best interests a heart. And we'll do all that's necessary to make this a good experience.

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[www.clevelandclinic.org/childrenshospital](http://www.clevelandclinic.org/childrenshospital)