

Pre-anesthesia Screening

Before anesthesia is delivered to a patient, the doctor obtains information to determine the health status of the patient. If health problems are detected, they may result in the postponement of anesthesia or the alteration of the anesthesia protocol.

Pre-anesthesia patient screening involves the following (in order of importance):

- 1) Obtaining a complete medical history
- 2) Physical examination of the patient including weight measurement
- 3) Measurement of blood hemoglobin levels and a complete urine analysis
- 4) Chest x-rays for patients in their senior years
- 5) Comprehensive blood screening tests and urine analysis for all patients in their senior years
- 6) Additional tests may be needed if the physical exam and/or medical history indicate the need for investigation of a hidden or underlying medical condition. However, in healthy adult patients with no abnormalities detected by physical examination or medical history comprehensive blood screening tests are not indicated.