

# Dr. Thomas S. H. Tan

M.B.B.S., F.A.N.Z.C.A.  
[anaestheticservices.com.au](http://anaestheticservices.com.au)  
Specialist Anaesthetist  
Provider No. 356987 L

## Anaesthetic Services

Suite 3.4, The Epworth Centre  
32 Erin Street  
Richmond, Victoria 3121  
Tel : (03) 9427 7899  
Fax : (03) 9428 6321  
[tom.tan@anaestheticservices.com.au](mailto:tom.tan@anaestheticservices.com.au)

## Anaesthesia and You

You or your child is about to have a procedure which requires a specialist doctor to care for you or your child while the procedure is being performed. The safety and well being of you or your child is the sole function of the anaesthetist while in his care. An anaesthetist is a doctor with specialist qualifications in patient safety, anaesthesia, pain control, resuscitation and management of medical emergencies. Qualified Australian anaesthetists are highly trained, having spent 7 years after their medical degree acquiring the skills and knowledge to ensure that the procedure is as safe as possible.



My name is Dr Thomas Tan and will be caring for you or your child during the procedure. I am a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and received my specialist qualifications in 1992. I have taught, researched, and have clinical anaesthesia experience in Australia and America. I currently have a public appointment at the Royal Melbourne Hospital as a consultant anaesthetist. I am an examiner for the final examination for the College of Anaesthetists and participate in the Continuing Professional Development Program of the College. I regularly teach postgraduate trainee doctors in anaesthesia topics.

### Anaesthetic Plans

I will meet you prior to the procedure to discuss health, any recent illnesses, any medication that may be taken and any abnormal reaction you or your child might have to any medications. Together, a plan for the anaesthetic care will be made. This may be sedation, local anaesthesia, a regional anaesthetic (such as an epidural or arm block), a general anaesthetic or just to have someone there if there is an emergency.

- General anaesthesia is a state of unconsciousness achieved and maintained by injecting medications through a vein or by breathing a mixture of gases. You or your child will be unaware of what is happening around you or your child.
- Regional anaesthesia is nerve block which numbs a part of the body where the procedure is performed.
- Local anaesthesia is the administration of medication to the site of operation to make it numb.
- Sedation is when medication is given to make you or your child feel drowsy and relaxed.

I will be present during the procedure and ensure that the recovery from anaesthesia is as smooth and complication free as possible. You or your child will recover from the anaesthetic in a special area where when awake you or your child may feel drowsy, have a sore throat, feel sick or have a headache. These are temporary and will pass quickly.

## Risks of Anaesthesia

All anaesthetics have risks. These risks may be quite minor and would include bruising or pain at the site of injection, nausea, headaches and drowsiness. Other complications include temporary nerve damage, muscle pains, damage to teeth, dental prostheses, lips and gums, temporary difficulty in breathing or talking. Serious complications are rare but include heart attacks, strokes, brain damage, kidney or liver failure, paraplegia, quadriplegia, eye injury, damage to the larynx (voice box), pneumonia and infection. These risks whilst real are balanced against the benefits of the procedure. There is no safer place in the world than Australia to have an anaesthetic.

Important things to remember before a procedure are:

- fasting in order to minimise the risk of inhaling stomach contents
- do not smoke. Ideally 6 weeks before the procedure
- drink less alcohol
- continue normal prescribed medication unless told not to by your specialist
- if anxious and have questions write them down and make an appointment to discuss them before your hospital admission.

## Cost of Anaesthesia

Medicare and most Medical Health Fund rebates generally do not cover the entire cost of anaesthetic care. In other words, there will usually be an **out of pocket expense**, which you will be expected to pay. My fee is determined by the degree of difficulty and duration of anaesthetic care. It is calculated using the Relative Value Guide, as recommended by the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the Australian Medical Association. Unfortunately the out of pocket expense cannot be accurately determined prior to operations as many factors need to be taken into account. There are over 40 different health funds in Australia, each with their individual methods and rates of rebating their members. Thus, the out of pocket expense is also dependant on your health fund. You should enquire with your health fund the appropriate procedure to obtaining your rebate. If you wish to obtain an estimate of the out of pocket expense please do not hesitate to contact my rooms. You will receive an invoice for my services within 4 weeks of the procedure. Many Medical health funds will rebate most of my fee without the need to go to Medicare.

Should you have any questions regarding your anaesthetic care or costs please write them down and ask at your pre anaesthetic consultation, which will occur before the procedure. Requests for quotes or enquiries can be directed to (03) 9427 7899 during office hours or by email to [tom.tan@anaestheticservices.com.au](mailto:tom.tan@anaestheticservices.com.au)

Further information can be obtained from the following websites -

[www.anaestheticservices.com.au/](http://www.anaestheticservices.com.au/)

[www.allaboutanaesthesia.com.au](http://www.allaboutanaesthesia.com.au)

[www.asa.org.au/Page.aspx?A=5652](http://www.asa.org.au/Page.aspx?A=5652)

[www.asahq.org/patientEducation.htm](http://www.asahq.org/patientEducation.htm)