
Malignant Hyperthermia and Surgery

What is malignant hyperthermia?

- Malignant hyperthermia is a rare, life-threatening condition caused by certain medications used during anesthesia. These are medications used to put you to sleep during surgery.
- Malignant hyperthermia (MH) is an inherited muscle condition that occurs in families. This means that if a family member has MH then you are at risk to have MH too.

What happens during surgery if I am at risk for malignant hyperthermia?

- During surgery the anesthesiologist will use different medications.
- After surgery you will be closely watched in the recovery area.
- If you are going home the same day of surgery, you will be watched closely in the Day Surgery Unit for about 2 hours.

What should I watch for after surgery over the next 24 hours?

For the next 24 hours, watch for:

- severe muscle cramping
- brown coloured urine
- high fever

If you have any of these problems, go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Tell the Emergency triage nurse and doctor that you are at risk for malignant hyperthermia and that you just had surgery.

For more information:

- Talk to your family doctor, health care provider, surgeon or anaesthesiologist
- The Malignant Hyperthermia Investigation Unit (MHIU) at Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Ontario:
 - <http://pie.med.utoronto.ca/MH/index.htm>
- The Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States:
 - www.mhaus.org