






# My Anesthesia Choice: Spinal or general anesthesia for hip fracture surgery










If you need surgery for a broken hip, you will need anesthesia during surgery. This guide will help you and your doctor choose between spinal and general anesthesia.

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## What is different between spinal and general anesthesia?

	Spinal anesthesia	General anesthesia
 <b>What it involves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A shot (injection) in your back to numb your hip joint and legs for a few hours so you do not feel pain</li> <li>Medicine through your IV to make you feel relaxed during surgery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicine to keep you unconscious (asleep) and unable to feel pain during surgery</li> <li>A tube to help you breathe, which comes out when you wake up</li> </ul>
 <b>Who it is less safe for</b>	May be less safe for people taking blood thinners	May be less safe for people with major lung issues
 <b>Side effect:</b> Shivering	About 6 out of 100 people have uncomfortable shivering after surgery	About 3 out of 100 people have uncomfortable shivering after surgery
 <b>Side effect:</b> Sore throat	About 2 out of 100 people in general have a sore throat after surgery	About 5 out of 100 people have a sore throat after surgery, likely from the tube that helps you breathe
 <b>Side effect:</b> Health problem (complication)	About 13 out of 100 people have a minor or serious health problem after surgery	About 15 out of 100 people have a minor or serious health problem after surgery

## What is the same between spinal and general anesthesia?

 <b>During surgery</b>	Your care team will monitor you during surgery and will keep you comfortable. You will not feel pain.
 <b>Pain:</b> Pain after surgery	There is no difference in the amount of pain people feel in the first 3 days after surgery
 <b>Recovery:</b> Leaving hospital	Most people leave the hospital around 3 days after surgery
 <b>Recovery:</b> Where people go after leaving hospital	About 26 out of 100 people go directly home, while the others go to a rehab center for a few days before going home
 <b>Side effect:</b> Confusion	About 20 out of 100 people feel confused for a few days or weeks after surgery
 <b>Recovery:</b> Walking on own	About 82 out of 100 people are able to walk on their own 2 months after surgery
 <b>Cost</b>	The cost to you should be about the same. Check with your insurance or your hospital.

**Scan the QR code or visit [MyAnesthesiaChoice.com](https://MyAnesthesiaChoice.com)  
to see the data used to develop this tool.**

