

Anaesthesia for Neurosurgery
Dr James Mitchell MB, BS, FANZCA

Background

I graduated from the Medical School at the University of Melbourne in 1993 and undertook my residency and subsequent anaesthesia training at St Vincent's Hospital, the Geelong Hospital, the Mercy Hospital for Women and the Royal Children's Hospital. From 2001 to 2004 I was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of California San Francisco where I gained extensive experience in anaesthesia for spinal surgery, neurosurgery and interventional neuroradiology including intraoperative testing and awake cases. My research work was in opioid tolerance and also mechanisms of synovial inflammation. I continue to teach anaesthesia trainees in the ANZCA training program.

My current public appointments are at St Vincent's Hospital and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. I am a licensed medical practitioner in Victoria and also California. I am a fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and a member of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists.

Fees

I calculate my fee for private cases using the Relative Value Guide adopted by Medicare and used by most compensation and insurance organizations. Patients funded by Workcover, TAC, VOCAT and Defence Force personnel will have no out-of-pocket expense for their anaesthetic. Patients who are pensioners or Health Care Card holders and are insured with any major fund other than GMHBA, Latrobe and Federation Health should have no out-of-pocket expense.

Other patients may have an out-of-pocket expense associated with their anaesthetic. This is determined by the rules of the particular health fund and may range from around 20% of the total fee for Medibank Private, Australian Unity and most other funds to as much as 50% for patients insured with HBA, NIB, HCF or MBF. Patients with only Medicare cover will have an out-of-pocket expense of about 65% of the total fee.

The typical fee for anaesthesia for a simple lumbar spine procedure taking around one hour is about \$800. For a cervical spine fusion taking an hour and a half the fee is about \$1000. For a major craniotomy for a cerebral aneurysm taking two hours the fee is about \$1500. The exact fee will depend on the duration of the procedure and the medical condition of the patient. I will always give an estimate of the likely fee before elective surgery if there will be any out-of-pocket expense. I am happy to be contacted for an estimate before surgery at any time through my office.

Contact Information

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