

Effective July 15, 1996

Guidelines to Antepartum Consultations for Clients of Midwives to Anaesthesia

Consultation with an anaesthetist will be recommended by the midwife to clients with the following conditions:

Diseases peculiar to anaesthesia

1. Malignant Hyperthermia or family history
2. Pseudocholinesterase deficiency or family history
3. Allergy to local or general anaesthetics
4. History of difficulty with anaesthetics (local or general)

Disorders affecting the airway

1. History of neck problems such as cervical fusion, cervical instability, rheumatoid arthritis in the cervical spine
2. Temporomandibular joint problems
3. Chronic hoarseness
4. Previous tracheostomy for any reason

Disorders of the lower back

1. Lumbar disk disease
2. Previous back surgery
3. Spina bifida (any kind)
4. Scoliosis
5. Ankylosing spondylitis

Neurologic conditions

1. Multiple sclerosis (any severity)
2. Myasthenia gravis (any severity)
3. Epilepsy
4. Previous central nervous system infection, e.g., polio, Guillain-Barré, meningitis

Heart diseases

1. Any symptomatic heart disease

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Lung disease

1. Symptomatic asthma requiring medication on a regular basis for control and/or a history of hospitalization for asthma in the past five years
2. Bronchiectasis
3. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Bleeding disorders

1. Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
2. Von Willibrand's disease
3. Other factor deficiencies or platelet abnormalities

Medications

1. Aspirin
2. Heparin
3. Prednisone within the previous six months
4. Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI)

Other conditions

1. Morbid obesity (>45kg above ideal body weight)
2. Excessive anxiety concerning pain relief in labour
3. Collagen vascular diseases (e.g., systemic lupus)
4. Access to consultation if client requests a consult