

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, March 26, 2017 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

***Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Article: Staying awake for your surgery? Don't panic if you hear 'oops' (MAIN, A6)

Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.

A. anesthesia	1. to grind or wear down or away or become ground or worn down or away
B. erode	2. to arouse an emotion or provoke to action: to excite (interest, curiosity)
C. inquisitive	3. general or local insensibility, as to pain and other sensation, induced by certain interventions or drugs to permit the performance of surgery or other painful procedures
D. pique	4. calm, quiet, or composed
E. scandal	5. research, or asking questions; eager for knowledge; intellectually curious
F. sedate	6. a disgraceful action or event

Comprehension

1. More surgery is being performed with the patient _____ and looking on, for both financial and medical reasons.
2. But as surgical patients are electing to keep their eyes wide open, doctor-patient protocol has not kept pace with the new practice. How so?
3. In a continuing study of negative experiences during awake procedures, what did a patient inform University of Chicago researchers of?
4. As a heads-up to staff members, some hospitals now post warning signs on the O.R. door. What does the sign say?
5. Choosing to watch your own surgery is one more manifestation of the patient autonomy movement. What does this mean?
6. What do studies show regarding regional anesthesia?

7. But many doctors view awake surgery with apprehension. What's their reasoning?
8. Whether the patient is offered the option of staying awake depends on many factors. What are they?
9. While a satisfying personal experience would be ideal, the patient is told, the most important driver is _____, including the ability of the surgeon to focus and communicate with other medical staff members without interruption.

Discussion Questions, Extension Essay Questions or Journal Prompts:

- Have you ever had a surgery?
- Would you want to stay awake during your procedure? Why or why not?
- Do you think this trend will gain popularity? Why or why not?

Dr. Alexander Langerman, the senior author of the communication study and a head and neck surgeon on the faculty of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, said that a patient's decision to remain awake during an operation also reflected a growing suspicion, generally, of authority figures. Noting how people pull out smartphones to capture police activity, he said: "There's an element in that for patients, too. The occasional scandals that emerge while patients are sedated continue to erode their trust in us."

Patients are also intrigued by what is being done to them while they are asleep. For those who choose to stay awake, Langerman added, "there's a curiosity and desire to have control over your experience."

- Why do you think most people opt to be awake during their surgery? Do you think it involves the above mentioned fears?

Proponents like Ilyas, who operates at the Rothman Orthopedic Specialty Hospital in Bensalem, northeast of Philadelphia, praise awake surgery as a step forward in transparency. "It's all about communication, comfort and experience," he said. "It is definitely catching on and creating a different kind of surgeon-patient relationship."

- Do you think awake surgeries build better surgeon-patient relationships? Why or why not?

"It's not for the faint of heart," he said. "They have to cut the capsule of the knee, which is quite thick. I could feel the vibration of the saw cutting through the leg bones. Then they hammer, and it sends a shock wave

slamming into your knee. It doesn't hurt, but you feel the pressure. And you smell burning flesh."

- What do you think of the description of the knee replacement above?
- After reading this, would you want to be sedated or not? Why?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday and Wednesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

Copyright © 2017 The Seattle Times Company