



Why I work collaboratively with an anaesthetist.

There has been recent debate in some circles about the use of an anaesthetist with cataract extractions. I always work in conjunction with an anaesthetist - I have worked with two for the last 10 years and we have a team approach to optimising the experience of our patients undergoing cataract extraction.

We work together as:

- An anaesthetic block enables more easily tolerated and comfortable surgery.
- Many patients are anxious undergoing surgery and our anaesthetists can safely administer sedation if required - no sedation can be given without an anaesthetist present and actively involved.
- The majority of patients undergoing cataract extraction are elderly and frequently have co morbidities. My anaesthetist monitors and maintains the general health and well being of our patient, enabling me to focus on the surgery.
- Working with an anaesthetist in a team approach to undertake cataract extraction is recognised as best practice and is College mandated.

In my opinion the benefits in terms of safety and comfort far outweigh the minimal additional cost involved.