



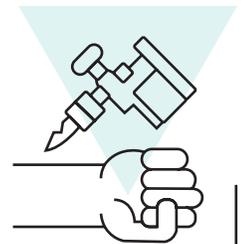
Anesthesia Care for Tattoo Procedures: What to Know

As tattoo sessions have grown longer and more detailed – sometimes lasting eight hours or more – some people have opted to use anesthesia to minimize the pain and reduce the number of sessions. While tattooing itself isn't a medical procedure, receiving anesthesia is and it should follow the same safety standards as any elective surgery. If you are considering having anesthesia for a tattoo, here's what you need to know.

UNDERSTAND WHO IS PROVIDING YOUR CARE – AND WHERE

Your anesthesia should always be provided by an anesthesiologist, who is a medical doctor with the education and training to provide the best and safest care. Your procedure should take place in a facility equipped to handle emergencies (NOT your tattoo artist's studio), which is licensed, accredited and has:

- Emergency and sterilized equipment
- Appropriate staff
- Protocols in place in case of an emergency or complication



YOUR ANESTHESIOLOGIST WILL

BEFORE

- Review your medical history and conduct a physical exam
- Order any necessary tests or lab work
- Discuss the risks and benefits of anesthesia, including the plan for care if you need to be transferred to another facility in an emergency
- Determine the right type of anesthesia
- Ask if you use tobacco, alcohol, cannabis or other drugs – be honest so they can provide the safest care
- Provide recovery and follow-up care instructions

DURING

- Monitor your vital signs, including heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate and temperature, ensuring your body is stable and comfortable
- Continually assess your condition and manage any complications that may arise

AFTER

- Continue to monitor your health as you recover from the anesthesia
- Ease your pain following the procedure



BE PREPARED FOR YOUR ANESTHESIA CARE

- Bring copies of your medical records and any required test results when you meet with your anesthesiologist
- Review, understand and agree to the anesthetic plan and post-anesthesia care plan
- Bring someone with you to drive you home after the procedure



For more information, see ASA's Patient Guidance on Anesthesia Care for Tattoo Procedures. Additional resources and information about specific types of anesthesia care and the critical role anesthesiologists play before, during and after procedures are available at asahq.org/MadeForThisMoment.