# Nursing Process Focus: Patients Receiving Halothane (Fluothane)

## Assessment

Prior to administration:
- Obtain complete health history including allergies, drug history and possible drug interactions.
- Assess for presence/history of pregnancy, diminished hepatic functioning, cardiac disorders hypotension.
- Assess for the use of the same anesthesia within 21 days.
- Assess other medications patient is taking. May influence effectiveness of gas or increase respiratory depression.
- Obtain baseline vital signs, especially blood pressure, pulse and respirations.
- Obtain blood work: complete blood count, liver studies.
- Assess for hypersensitivity.

## Potential Nursing Diagnoses

- Ineffective Breathing Pattern, related to side effects of halothane
- Decreased Cardiac Output, related to side effects of halothane
- Impaired Gas Exchange, related to respiratory depression secondary to halothane
- Deficient Knowledge, related to no prior experience with surgery or general anesthesia
- Nausea, post-operative, related to after-effects of halothane
- Disturbed Sensory Perception, related to CNS depression secondary to anesthesia

## Planning: Patient Goals and Expected Outcomes

Patient will:
- Experience no pain during surgery.
- Report no side effects of halothane during peri- or post-operative period.
- Demonstrate understanding of the perioperative phase of their surgical experience.
- Maintain adequate ventilation during the surgical procedure.

## Implementation

### Interventions and (Rationales)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interventions and (Rationales)</th>
<th>Patient Education/Discharge Planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Obtain history of previous use of halothane. (If used within 14-21 days, halothane cannot be used. Too frequent use of halothane may lead to halothane hepatitis, potentially fatal adverse reaction which is more common in elderly or obese patients; not seen in children.)</td>
<td>Instruct patient:</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Monitor vital signs during procedure and post-operatively, esp. for hypotension, bradycardia, and dysrhythmias. (Halothane can decrease blood pressure. Sensitizes myocardium to effects of catecholamines or sympathomimetics, which could lead to serious dysrhythmias.)</td>
<td>to recognize warning signs of halothane hepatitis including unexplained rash, fever.</td>
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<td>*Monitor for decreased hepatic functioning. (Halothane is metabolized in the liver. Halothane has an increased risk of causing</td>
<td>to obtain follow-up lab studies.</td>
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<td>*Advise patient regarding possible side effects.</td>
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<td>*Advise patient to keep all appointments for lab work.</td>
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</table>
### Evaluation of Outcome Criteria

Evaluate the effectiveness of drug therapy by confirming that patient goals and expected outcomes have been met (see “Planning”).