

# INTRODUCTION

## I N T R O D U C T I O N

The preoperative evaluation and determination of anaesthesia to be used are responsibilities of the anaesthesiologist that are important as his duties during the procedure. Consequently he must understand the purpose of the preoperative evaluation and the rationale behind choosing an anaesthetic agent so maximum safety is provided for the patient.

The anaesthesiologist's preoperative preparation serves a dual purpose. While his preoperative visit should allay the patient's anxiety and stress, it should also give the anaesthesiologist an opportunity to assess the patient's physical status, a crucial factor in choosing the proper type of anaesthesia.

Only after establishing some idea of the patient's emotional and physical state can preanaesthetic medication be ordered intelligently. Selection of premedicant drugs must be the prerogative of the anaesthesiologist, since administration of the anaesthetic really begins when the drugs are given. Wise choice of medication can pave the way for an uncomplicated anaesthetic and post-operative course.