

# Parental Presence At Induction Of Anaesthesia: Who Benefits?

**F Ibach, A Bosenberg**

---

## **Introduction**

Human evolution in every respect is geared towards enhancing our comfort. Nearly two decades ago, the concept of parental presence at induction (PPIA) of anaesthesia for their children emerged. The stress of parental separation immediately prior to surgery was considered significant. The interaction between parent, child and anaesthetist can have a direct impact on all three. The influence of the nursing staff cannot be ignored. Attitudes have changed and opinions vary as to who actually benefits from this practice.

## **Objectives**

1. Historical review of the development of PPIA with a view to a better understanding of current opinion in an ever changing world.

2. To review the effects, both long and short term, on the child, parent and anaesthetist.
3. Present results of a pilot study of South African parents' perspective on PPIA.
4. To establish whether the international view is congruent with our setting.

## **Methods**

A literature review of relevant studies published over the past 25 years with these objectives in mind was done. In addition, various aspects and alternative interventions both pharmacological and non-pharmacological, were reviewed.

A questionnaire on parental expectations and anxiety was completed by parents prior to surgery. A second part reviewed their experience of the induction prior to discharge.