



CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ANESTHÉSIOLOGISTES

SCIENCE • VIGILANCE • COMPASSION

About CAS

The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS) is a not-for-profit, voluntary organization, which exists for the benefit of its member anesthesiologists. "Seeing you through your most critical times — Canadian anesthesiologists: specialist physicians in peri-operative medicine, critical care and pain management" is the Society's positioning signature. The organization's mission statement is "The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society is dedicated to the advancement of the medical practice of anesthesia through research, education and excellence in patient care."

Anesthesiologists – who are they and what do they do?

Canadian anesthesiologists are physicians who have completed a university pre-medical program, followed by medical school and then five or more years of specialized (residency) training in anesthesiology. During their residency, anesthesiologists are extensively trained in human physiology, particularly the brain, heart, lungs, kidneys and liver. They become experts on the drugs that are used in anesthesia and intensive care medicine. Anesthesiologists give more intravenous drugs than all other types of physicians combined. Anesthesiologists are the only physicians with expert knowledge of the extremely potent drugs used to anesthetize people.

Anesthesiologists become familiar with all the different medical conditions and their implications for patients undergoing a wide variety of surgical procedures. They gain experience in the provision of anesthesia for all surgical procedures, on patients of all ages and in any state of health. They spend a year working in such internal medicine areas as cardiology and respirology. At least six months are spent in critical care units, such as coronary care, neonatal, pediatric and adult intensive care. By the end of their training they have become experts on anesthesia, resuscitation, critical care, and pain management. They then take the specialty examinations of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and become certified specialists in anesthesia. A considerable portion of most anesthesiologists' work is in providing anesthesia in the operating room, however in modern hospitals, they also work in many other areas. They are specialists in perioperative medicine, critical care and pain management. You will find them in the intensive care units, the maternity unit, the pre-admission clinic, the radiology department, the pain clinic, and on the wards.