

Playing videos reduces anxiety before pediatric surgery

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Katherine A. Mifflin, from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, and colleagues randomly assigned 89 children (age 2 to 10 years old) to either watch a video clip of their choice or to traditional distraction methods during induction of inhaled [anesthesia](#) before ambulatory surgery.

The researchers found that children who watched the video were significantly less anxious at induction, as assessed by the modified Yale Preoperative Anxiety Scale. Children in the video group also had a significantly smaller change in anxiety from holding to induction. All of the children were similar in age and had similar anxiety scores before entering the operating room.

"Playing video clips during the inhaled induction of [children](#) undergoing ambulatory surgery is an effective method of reducing anxiety," Mifflin and colleagues conclude. "Therefore, pediatric anesthesiologists may consider using [video distraction](#) as a useful, valid, alternative strategy for achieving a smooth transition to the anesthetized state."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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