

## Interview Questions for James E. Cottrell

- Why do you say in *Anesthesia Without Fear* that anesthesiologists are the “unseen doctors”?
- Is it true that people face a greater risk from anesthesia than from surgery itself?
- What does the anesthesiologist actually do during surgery?
- What’s the scariest situation you’ve ever experienced in the operating room?
- Managed care is difficult to negotiate. *Anesthesia Without Fear* gives two basic principles to follow to be sure you get what you need – *and* what you want – both during and after surgery. Can you tell me about these principles?
- Is there anyone who should not be given anesthesia?
- How should people prepare for surgery? What does the anesthesiologist need to know about them beforehand?
- Some people suffer postoperatively from the effects of anesthesia, with headaches and vomiting. Is there a way to mitigate those reactions?
- You see so many medical dramas on TV and in movies, suggesting that the doctors and nurses in the operating room are talking about their plans for dinner. What really goes on among them?
- What roles do anesthesiologists play outside the operating room?
- Chronic pain is such a big problem in this country. Could you explain the anesthesiologist’s role in treating it? Many people fear that treating pain with powerful opioids will lead to addiction. What’s your position?
- You say in the book that anesthesia was first used in the 19th century. How far has it come since then? And what is the future?