First public demonstration of diethyl ether as an anesthetic agent
Patient later reported being half-awake during surgery, making it the first documented case of intraoperative awareness

First use of ether anesthesia in war

Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) introduced into clinical practices

Intravenous general anesthesia first administered

First use of an ethylene-oxygen mask on a human

American Society of Anesthesiasts (ASA) founded

First spinal anesthetic used in surgery

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) founded

ASA becomes first medical specialty to adopt standards of care for its members

Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) founded

Level of Consciousness (LOC) monitors first used

ASA issues a "Practice Advisory for Intraoperative Awareness and Brain Function Monitoring," which recommends using LOC monitors on a case-by-case basis

Evolving monitoring technologies introduced, including SNAP II

ASA becomes American Society of Anesthesiologists

Evaluating monitoring technologies introduced, including SNAP II

First obstetric anesthetic administered in U.S.