

## 12.1. GENERAL ANAESTHETICS

### 12.1.1. Introduction

Anaesthesia is referred to as a state of unconsciousness. There are three components of anaesthesia:

- 1) Analgesia (pain relief),
- 2) Amnesia (loss of memory), and
- 3) Immobilisation.

Anaesthetics are of two types:

- 1) **Local Anaesthetics:** These act locally and eliminate the sensory perception over a local area.
- 2) **General Anaesthetics:** These eliminate the sensation of complete body and are used as an adjunct to surgical operations to make patient unaware and unresponsive to painful conditions. General anaesthetics are drugs producing analgesia, unconsciousness, reversible loss of all sensation, and relaxing the patient's muscles.

### 12.1.2. Classification

General anaesthetics are classified as:

#### 1) Inhalational Anaesthetics

- i) Enflurane
- ii) Desflurane
- iii) Halothane
- iv) Ether

#### 2) Intravenous Anaesthetics

- i) Thiopentone sodium
- ii) Etomidate
- iii) Ketamine
- iv) Fentanyl
- v) Diazepam

#### 3) Gaseous Anaesthetics: Nitrous oxide