

Local Anesthesia

Local anesthesia is the use of medicine to numb a part of the body. The medicine is also called local anesthetic. It works fast and prevents pain. It also does not make you fall asleep. There are different ways it is given. It may be given as a shot. It can also be put on the skin or mucous membranes, such as those in the mouth or nose. If it is put on the skin or mucous membranes, it is often in the form of a:

- Cream.
- Gel.
- Spray.
- Patch.
- Liquid.
- Mist.

This type of medicine is often used for minor procedures. These may include:

- Dental work, such as pulling a tooth.
- A skin biopsy.
- Getting stitches for a deep cut.

Tell a health care provider about:

- Any allergies you have.
- All medicines you are taking. This includes blood thinners, vitamins, herbs, eye drops, creams, and over-the-counter medicines.
- Any problems you or family members have had with anesthetic medicines.
- Any bleeding problems you have.
- Any surgeries you have had.
- Any medical conditions you have.
- Whether you are pregnant or may be pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding.
- When you last ate or drank anything.

What are the risks?

- Bruising or soreness where the medicine was given.
- Redness or irritation where the medicine was put on your skin.
- Feeling light-headed.
- Infection.
- Ringing in the ears.
- Twitching.
- A taste like metal in the mouth.
- An allergic reaction. This is rare.
- Seizure, heart problems, or trouble breathing. This is rare.

What happens before the procedure?

Medicines

- Ask your health care provider about changing or stopping:
 - Your normal medicines.
 - Vitamins, herbs, and supplements.
 - Over-the-counter medicines.
- **Do not** take aspirin or ibuprofen unless you are told to.

General instructions

- Follow instructions from your health care provider about what you can eat or drink.
- Ask your health care provider what steps will be taken to prevent the spread of germs.

What happens during the procedure?



- You will be given a local anesthetic. This medicine may be:
 - Given as a shot.
 - Put on the skin. This is often in the form of a cream, gel, spray, patch, or drops.
 - Put on the inside of the mouth or nose. This is often in the form of a gel, liquid, or mist.
- If you are given a shot:
 - You will be asked to stay still.
 - You may feel some discomfort as the medicine is put into your body.
- A health care provider will check to make sure that the area is numb.
- You will be watched to make sure you are comfortable.

The procedure may vary among health care providers and hospitals.

What happens after the procedure?

- You will be monitored until you leave the hospital or clinic. This includes checking your blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate, and blood oxygen level.
- You may have to wait to eat or drink until the medicines you were given have worn off.

Summary

- Local anesthesia is the use of medicine to numb a part of the body.
- It works fast and prevents pain during and after a procedure. There are different ways it is given.
- This type of medicine is often used for minor procedures.
- You will be watched during the procedure to make sure you are comfortable.
- You may have to wait to eat or drink until the medicines you were given have worn off.

This information is not intended to replace advice given to you by your health care provider. Make sure you discuss any questions you have with your health care provider.