

What is a Local anaesthetic?

A local anaesthetic is medication given when a surgical procedure is required but a general anaesthetic is not necessary. It is usually given by injection to numb the specific area surrounding your child's wound but can also be given as a spray/cream in certain situations. The best approach for your child will be advised and offered. Once your child meets certain criteria i.e. usually older than 10 years and happy for procedure to be done under Local anaesthetic, appropriate understanding of what is involved, able to keep still for a certain period of time, we will offer it as a treatment plan.

Consent

The doctor will discuss with you and your child, the reason why this is an option, what the procedure entails, risks, benefits etc. and you will be asked to sign a consent form if you agree. If you are unsure of any information given, please ask for clarification or take time to consider this option before signing. Both you and your child must be happy with the decision being made.



During the procedure

Before the treatment commences, it is important that your child knows why we are doing this and that we want them to be comfortable during the procedure even though they are awake.

All required information about what is happening will be explained before and throughout the procedure. You can stay with your child during the process. Your child can listen to music/watch a video or use other distraction techniques if they wish. They can also eat and drink prior to it.

After administering the local anaesthetic, the doctor will check that the area is numb before proceeding. Your child will still feel some touch/movement but it shouldn't be painful. Encourage your child to let us know if there is pain as we can give more local anaesthetic prior to commencing the procedure if required.

After the procedure

A dressing will be applied after the procedure and you will be given instructions on the care of this until you return to the Plastics Dressing Clinic for review of wound within a particular timeframe. Other specific care instructions will be explained depending on area that was sutured. Your child will need to rest for a few hours after the procedure also.

The area where the anaesthetic was administered will remain numb for a few hours. As this is wearing off, it is important to give simple analgesia (paracetamol/ibuprofen) to ensure comfort as it may be a little painful.

There may be slight swelling or bruising around the area which is normal but contact the clinic if this does not subside.

Side effects / risks associated with Local Anaesthetic

Side effects are rare but can happen. Some risks can include:

- Tingling around site
- An allergic reaction
- Breathing problems
- Infection
- Metal taste in mouth

If your child experiences any symptoms during the procedure, we will act accordingly. If they suffer side effects at home, you can contact us again and seek medical assistance as soon as possible.

