



## Introduction

This leaflet aims to provide you with the basic information about local anaesthesia. If you have any questions not covered in this leaflet, please discuss with your doctor who will be willing to answer your questions.

## How does local anaesthesia works?

Local anaesthesia involves injecting an anesthetic drug that causes reversible local anaesthesia at the operation site. There are different ways to provide local anaesthesia which include surface anaesthesia, infiltration anaesthesia, field anaesthesia and peripheral nerve block.

## Is there any risk in local anaesthesia?

In general, local anaesthesia is a very safe technique and the risk directly associated with local anaesthesia is small. The complications include localized adverse effects and general adverse effects.

### Localized adverse effects:

- Painful on injection
- Prolonged numbness, tingling, feeling of "pins and needles", or strange sensations
- Temporary or permanent nerve damage. Risk of nerve damage is rare, (between 1 in 5,000 to 1 in 30,000). The vast majority of those affected (92%–97%) will recover within four to six weeks. 99% of these people will recover within a year.

### General systemic adverse effects:

General systemic adverse effects are due to the pharmacological effects of the anesthetic agents used. These adverse effects occur rarely and only if the amount of local anaesthetic drugs used exceed the recommended range. :

- Allergy to local anaesthetic drugs
- Convulsion
- Coma
- Respiratory depression
- Cardiac arrhythmia
- Death

**Remarks:** Under certain circumstances, local anaesthesia technique alone may not be sufficient for the operation and intravenous sedation technique or Monitored Anaesthesia Care or general anaesthesia may be needed.

## Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

## Reference

Butterworth, J. F. & Lahaye, L. Maniker, R. & Crowley, M. (2020). Clinical use of local anesthetics in anesthesia. UpToDate. Retrieved on 27-6-2020 from <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/clinical-use-of-local-anesthetics-in-anesthesia>