

Patient Information Leaflet

Local Anaesthesia

How local anaesthesia work?

Your nerves carry pain signals to your brain. Local anaesthetic drugs block your nerves and prevent them from carrying these signals. This nerve blockage saves you from feeling pain. This blockage is temporary. As the local anaesthetic wears off you may find that you have a tingling or burning sensation. Your nerves will start working in a while. Both movement and feeling will return.

How long does local anaesthetic (lidocaine injection) take to work?

When injected, the numbing effects of Lidocaine can begin working very quickly, within few seconds. This effect can last up to 3 hours.

However, on occasion other factors can play a role in how long the drug's effects last.

What if I still feel pain?

You need to advise the doctor if you are still experiencing pain during the procedure, the surgeon can inject more anaesthetic to ensure full numbness of the operated area. You may still feel some pressure or movement during the procedure.

Are there Side Effects of Local Anaesthesia?

Local anaesthetics are given for local numbing, but it's absorbed into your body and carried by blood all over the body. You may have both local and generalized side effects, including:

- Soreness at the injection site
- Tingling feeling
- Ringing in the ears
- Headache, dizziness, and confusion
- Disturbances of the heart rhythm and blood pressure