

TOPICAL ANESTHETICS

Topical anesthetics should be strongly considered for many procedures including venipuncture, venous access, lumbar puncture, bone marrow aspiration, and laceration repair. There are many new topical anesthetics on the horizon which promise to enhance the speed and efficacy of this class of agents.

Topical anesthetics currently available at Connecticut Children's include the following:

EMLA

- Placed over site of proposed procedure
- Safety demonstrated in all age groups (follow application guidelines)
- Needs to be placed at least one hour prior to procedure
- For use only on intact skin

J-Tip

- Identify and disinfect the site / area.
- Safety demonstrated in children over 8 years of age
- Effective after 3 to 5 minutes application
- Z-track method needs to be used for administration
- For use on intact skin only.

LET (Lidocaine, Epinephrine and Tetracaine)

- For use with laceration repair
- Applied by nursing staff as gel
- Takes effect in 20-30 minutes
- Most effective for facial lacerations
- Contraindicated on fingers, toes, nose and ears