

Pre-cannulation topical anaesthetics for dental sedation

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

Please read this fact sheet in conjunction with the patient information leaflet provided by the manufacturer.

Topical anaesthetic creams can be used to numb the skin and reduce pain before a cannula is inserted (plastic tube in a vein, used to give sedative medication).

The anaesthetic creams act on the peripheral nerves to reduce the sensation of pain at the site of application where the cannula needle is inserted. However, you may still experience some discomfort during the cannulation process.

The cream needs to be applied to the skin before the appointment and kept in place using an adhesive plastic dressing.

Placement of topical anaesthetic cream:



Placement of adhesive dressing:



There are two different types of local anaesthetic creams that can be used. Both are available to buy at pharmacies over the counter. Both work in a similar way and either can be used.

- 1) Ametop Gel: apply gel and adhesive dressing 30-45 minutes before your appointment.
- 2) EMLA cream: apply cream and adhesive dressing one hour before your appointment.

Please follow the manufacturer's instructions on the leaflet provided with the cream and read their information about side effects and caution before use.

Your dental team can show you the best areas to apply these creams at your dental assessment appointment.

Please do not apply the cream to more than two areas at the same time. Use approximately three centimetres of cream on a large, clearly visible vein, as shown to you by your dental team.

We would advise that you place cream on two of these areas (dental team to circle as appropriate):

Left back of the hand

Right back of the hand

Left front of the elbow

Right front of the elbow

Try to place the cream over a large, visible vein in these areas:



PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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