

What is Local Anesthesia (LA) ?

LA aims at reducing pain during surgery, and is conducted at the situation where the patient is conscious.

What are the categories of LA ?**1. Surface Anesthesia:**

Gels, Sprays, Creams, Ointments, Eye drops, Ointments and Plasters, applied directly to the skin or mucosa making the surgical site temporarily losing sensation.

2. Infiltration Anesthesia:

Applied to more painful procedures, such as skin surgery, wound repair or lumbar puncture, by injecting LA via a fine needle to the subcutaneous tissue of the surgical site.

3. Nerve Block Anesthesia:

LA is injected around peripheral nerves to inhibit nerve conduction and thus transfer of pain message (by small or main nerve) as around annular nerve (finger) or femoral nerve.

4. Intravenous Regional Anesthesia:

Common for distal arm and leg procedures when a pressure cuff is applied at the proximal end of that limb and a small cannula is put in a distal vein. LA is injected through the cannula when the cuff pressure is set at 50 mmHg above of patient's systolic blood pressure.

What are the risks and complications of LA ?

1. Pain
2. Bleeding or Hematoma
3. Infection
4. Nerve damage
5. Drug allergies (severe reactions chance less than 0.01%)
6. Depression of circulatory or respiratory system, leading to death (rare).

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor. Evangel Hospital reserves the right to amend this leaflet without prior notice. We welcome suggestions or enquiries on the information provided in this leaflet. Please contact our Healthcare professionals so that we could follow up and make improvement.

Reference

Patient.co.uk: "Practical Local Anaesthesia" (2015)

<http://www.patient.co.uk/doctor/Practical-Local-Anaesthesia.htm> (05-07-2023)