

EMLA (contains Lidocaine+ Prilocaine)

Trade Name	EMLA® (Astra-Zeneca)
Class	Topical anaesthetic
Mechanism of Action	Surface anaesthesia. Inhibits ionic fluxes, stabilising neuronal membranes thereby producing local anaesthesia.
Indications	Prior to non-urgent LP or skin biopsy in infants ≥37 weeks
Contraindications	<p>Known hypersensitivity to local anaesthetics.</p> <p>EMLA should not be used in infants less than 12 months of age who are receiving methaemoglobin inducing agents (sulphonamides.)</p> <p>Patients with G6PD deficiency or methaemoglobinaemia may be at increased risk of drug induced methaemoglobinemia.</p> <p>Not for those on nitric oxide, severe illness or prematurity.</p> <p>Potential for additive cardiac effects if used in combination with class III antiarrhythmic agents eg amiodarone, sotalol.</p>
Supplied As	Emla 5% patch (Lidocaine 25mg, Prilocaine 25mg)
Dilution	None
Dosage	<p>1g - applied to skin area up to 10 cm², left on for 45 minutes to a maximum of one hour before procedure.</p> <p>Maximum of 1 application per 24 hours.</p>
Interval	Once daily
Administration	Topical, apply only to intact skin
Compatible With	N/A
Incompatible With	N/A
Monitoring	Skin colour for cyanosis
Stability	Manufacturers expiry
Storage	Store below 25 °C

Adverse Reactions	<p>Skin irritation, transient local paleness, redness and oedema.</p> <p>Methaemoglobinaemia is a serious but rare side effect – signs and symptoms may include; headache, fatigue, cyanosis, tachypnoea, dyspnoea, tachycardia, altered levels of consciousness, myocardial infarction and diffuse hypoxic brain injury.</p> <p>EMLA is not expected to be significantly absorbed, but if absorption occurs, signs and symptoms may include nervous system excitation, convulsion, CNS depression.</p>
Metabolism	Absorbed drug metabolised in the liver.
Comments	Not licensed for use in infants < 37 weeks.
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical Drug Handbook (Paediatrics) Lacy et al 2. Acta Paediatr 1998; 87:1191-4 3. NEJM 1997; 336: 1197-1201 4. Acta Anaesthesiol Scand 1985; 29:453-5 5. EMLA product data sheets 6. BNF for Children 2011-2012 7. NZFc www.nzf.org.nz 8. Prescriber Update 20 (3) 20 August 2009. www.medsafe.govt.nz 9. Neofax in www.micormedexsolutions.com
Updated By	<p>A Daniell Jan 2001</p> <p>P Schmidt, B Robertshawe December 2004</p> <p>A Lynn, B Robertshawe June 2012 (re-order profile)</p> <p>A Lynn, M Wallenstein B Robertshawe Jan 2021 (Review update ADRs & referencing)</p>