

Local AnGel— patient information

What is Local AnGel?

Local AnGel (or local anaesthetic gel) is a topical numbing gel that contains tetracaine (amethocaine) 4% as the active ingredient.

What is Local AnGel used for?

Local AnGel stops the nerve cells from sending pain messages to the brain. It numbs the skin before blood is taken, before a cannula (or IV) is placed in a vein, and before other procedures that involve needles.

Important things to remember

- Do not apply the gel to broken or inflamed skin, mucous membranes (like the nose and mouth), eyes or ears.
- Local AnGel is not appropriate for premature babies or full-term infants under one month of age.
- Do not use the gel if the child has a known allergy to ester-type local anaesthetics or hydroxybenzoate.
- Do not swallow Local AnGel.

How is Local AnGel applied?

1. It is best to bring Local AnGel to room temperature for ease of application.
2. Apply a thick layer of gel (about the size of a \$2 coin) to the site. Do not spread or rub in.
3. Cover firmly with a waterproof dressing (like Tegaderm®, or cling wrap). Record the time the gel was applied.
4. Leave in place for at least 50 minutes, but no longer than 60 minutes.
5. Remove the waterproof dressing and wipe away the gel using a tissue or gauze swab. If the skin becomes quite swollen, wait 10 to 15 minutes after removing the gel to allow the swelling to settle before the procedure.
6. The skin will remain numb for about 4-6 hours, even after the gel has been removed.

Effects your child may experience

Local AnGel causes the veins beneath the skin to dilate. The blood will flow closer to the skin, causing mild redness at the numbed site, which may last for several hours. This happens in most patients and is an expected effect.

Less frequently, mild skin swelling or itching at the numbed site may occur. This is a histamine reaction and only occurs in a small number of people. Itching should stop when the gel is removed. Any skin swelling should settle once the effect of the gel wears off.

Rarely, symptoms such as redness, swelling, and itching can become very bad. If this happens or blisters develop, take off the gel right away. Wash the area with cool running water and gentle soap or use a cool washcloth. Do not use hot water or hot washcloths.

Repeated use of Local AnGel may increase the chance of these side effects. Report any adverse and unexpected effects to your doctor.

Storage

- Keep Local AnGel out of reach of children.
- Store unopened Local AnGel in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- After opening, Local AnGel may be kept at room temperature.
- Mark the tube with the opening date. Discard 30 days after opening.

Inactive ingredients

Local AnGel also contains methylcellulose, propylene glycol, methyl hydroxybenzoate, propyl hydroxybenzoate and purified water.

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