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## A03lite Local Anaesthetic

Expires end of December 2019

A more detailed version of this procedure specific information sheet is available. Please ask your health practitioner at any Western Australian public hospital for a copy.

**Write questions or notes here:**

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This document will give you information about a local anaesthetic. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

### **What is a local anaesthetic?**

A local anaesthetic is a drug that is injected into the tissues to make them numb.

Local anaesthetics temporarily stop nerves working so that you do not feel pain. The simplest form of local anaesthesia is to inject anaesthetic just around the area where the operation is going to take place. It is also possible to numb all the nerves to an arm or a leg (called a nerve block).

### **Are there any alternatives to a local anaesthetic?**

If you are concerned about being awake during the operation, it may be possible for it to be performed under a general anaesthetic. Other forms of anaesthesia may be possible, such as an epidural or nerve block.

### **What complications can happen?**

- Not enough pain relief
- Allergic reaction
- Bleeding
- Nerve damage
- Local anaesthetic toxicity

### **Summary**

A local anaesthetic can be used for most people, usually giving a safe and effective form of pain relief during and after an operation or procedure.

### **Acknowledgements**

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**This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.**