



Patient Information Leaflet

Local Anaesthesia

Cork University Dental School & Hospital



This leaflet has been designed to explain local anaesthesia and it contains answers to many frequently asked questions. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer, or if you would like further information, please ask us.

What is Local Anaesthesia?

Local anaesthesia in dentistry is the temporary loss of feeling, including pain, in part of the mouth. Prevention of pain during dental treatment can help build the relationship between the child and the dentist, building trust and promoting a positive attitude.

When is Local Anaesthesia Needed?

Local Anaesthesia is usually required for the following procedures:

- Fillings in primary (baby) teeth or in permanent (adult) teeth
- Extractions
- Pulpotomies (root canal treatment of primary teeth)
- In some cases where there has been dental trauma



What will Local Anaesthesia Involve?

Please note that a parent or a guardian should attend with the child if local anaesthesia is required for a dental procedure.

- All aspects of local anaesthesia will be explained to both the child and the parent/guardian.
- A topical anaesthetic (“magic jelly”) is placed on the gum near the tooth that is to be treated. This is left in place for about a minute.
- A small amount of anaesthetic is then given near the tooth to be treated.
- The local anaesthetic causes temporary numbness to areas inside the child’s mouth. Their lip and/or tongue may also be numb. It is important for the child to understand that only their tooth and immediate surrounding area “goes to sleep”.
- Once the tooth is numb, the dental procedure can begin.
- **It is extremely important that the child does not chew the inside of their lips or cheeks or accidentally bite their tongue while they are numb. The child should also avoid any hot drinks.**
- The numbness will gradually wear off over the next few hours.

This leaflet is available online at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/dentalschool/patients>