



EMLA® (“M-la”) cream:

Contains lidocaine and prilocaine

(“LYE-doe-kane and PRIL-oh-kane”)

Purpose: This medication may decrease pain from being stuck by a needle. The cream is placed on intact skin before taking blood, starting IVs, accessing a port, injecting a shot, or starting a procedure that might be painful. The name EMLA is an abbreviation for “Eutectic Mixture of Local Anesthetics.”

How drug is given: EMLA cream is put on a small patch of skin to make it numb.

When should I use EMLA cream?

- EMLA cream needs to be applied at least 1 hour before a needle is inserted.
- The person prescribing the EMLA cream will tell you when to apply it and where to apply it on your body. They may ask you to apply it to more than one site.

How do I apply EMLA cream?

1. Wash your hands before and after applying EMLA cream.
2. Try **either** of these methods:
 - a. For a new port or a double-lumen port:
 - Squeeze out of the tube a **thick** strip that measures 1.5 inches by 0.2 inches. The strip of cream should fit in this box. 
 - b. Single lumen port that that has been used for several weeks or longer:
 - Apply a **thick** layer of cream (about the size of a nickel) to the area.
3. Do **not** rub EMLA cream into the skin.
4. Cover the area with a plastic dressing, such as tegaderm, plastic wrap, or a press-n-seal wrap with tape.

Tips for patients using EMLA cream

- Take note of the time when you apply the EMLA cream.
- EMLA cream works within 60 minutes after it is put on.
- You may leave it on for up to 4 hours.
- Wipe off EMLA cream before the needle insertion.
- EMLA cream will still work for up to 2 hours after it has been removed from the skin.

Important safety information

- Use EMLA cream as directed by your cancer care team. Check the label on the medicine for the exact dose instructions.

- EMLA cream should only be used on normal, unbroken skin. Do not use on scratched or broken skin.
- Do not use EMLA cream if you are allergic or sensitive to numbing medications like lidocaine and prilocaine.
- Do not use near your mouth, eyes, or ears.
- Do not apply extra EMLA cream. This will not make it work any better or faster.
- Be careful not to scratch the skin, or put anything cold or hot on the place where the skin is numb.

Are there any side effects?

You may notice abnormal skin sensations, such as:

- Burning
- A change in hot or cold sensation
- Pale skin
- Redness or swelling at the application site

If these side effects occur, wipe the EMLA cream off the skin with a tissue or towel and contact your cancer care team. You may wash the site with mild soap and water.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. Side effects may also vary if you are taking other medications. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: