

EMLA

Lidocaine and prilocaine

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using EMLA?

EMLA contains the active ingredient lidocaine and prilocaine. EMLA is used to numb the skin to allow minor surgical procedures to be performed with a significant reduction in pain.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using EMLA?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use EMLA?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to EMLA or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use EMLA?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with EMLA and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use EMLA?

- EMLA is available as a cream or a patch. Instructions on how to use it are included in the box. More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use EMLA?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using EMLA?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using EMLA.Apply EMLA on intact skin at least one hour before your procedure is due.For leg ulcers apply EMLA 30 minutes before your ulcer is due to be cleaned.Apply EMLA two hours before split skin grafting.Apply EMLA at least fifteen minutes before a procedure on male genital skin.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do not use EMLA cream on leg ulcers for longer than 2 months without checking with your doctor or pharmacist.Do not to let EMLA get into the eyes.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep EMLA cream in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C. Do not let it freeze.Keep EMLA patches in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Do not let them freeze.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while receiving EMLA?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using EMLA. Some of the mild side effects include local reactions such as itching, swelling, paleness, redness or a burning sensation. Some of the serious side effects include a rash at a spot where EMLA is not being used, difficulty breathing, dizziness, shaky hands, blurred vision and areas of skin becoming blue. For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

EMLA

Active ingredient(s): *Lidocaine and prilocaine*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet answers some common questions about EMLA. It does not contain all the available information that is known about EMLA. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor will have weighed the risks of you or your child using EMLA against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using EMLA.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using EMLA?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use EMLA?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use EMLA?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using EMLA?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using EMLA?

EMLA is a mixture of two local anaesthetics, lidocaine and prilocaine. These local anaesthetics are combined with special agents which allow the products to pass through the skin. Once through the skin the numbing effect they produce allows minor surgical procedures to be performed with a significant reduction in pain.

These procedures can include taking blood samples, vaccination, skin grafting, cleaning leg ulcers, inserting an intravenous catheter, minor superficial cosmetic procedures and procedures on genital skin.

EMLA is available as a cream which is applied then covered with a dressing, or as a patch, which has the cream and dressing already to use.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

Your doctor may prescribe this medicine for another use. Ask your doctor if you want more information.

EMLA is not addictive.

2. What should I know before I use EMLA?

Warnings

Do not apply EMLA cream to any open wounds except leg ulcers.

EMLA should not be used in premature babies. We do not have enough knowledge yet to be sure it is safe in premature babies.

Do not use EMLA if

You or your child have allergies to:

- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- other local anaesthetics, for example those used at the dentist.
- adhesives or sticking plasters.

If you have an allergic reaction, you may get a skin rash, hayfever, asthma or feel faint.

Do not use after the use by (expiry) date printed on the pack or the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

Do not use it to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says it is safe.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else.

Check with your doctor if you:

Have any of the following medical conditions:

- dermatitis
- methaemoglobinaemia
- glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency
- mollusca contagiosa.

It may not be safe for you or your child to use EMLA if you have any of these conditions.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Do not use EMLA if you are pregnant or breastfeeding unless your doctor says to do so. Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits involved.

The ingredients in EMLA have been used for many years and no ill effects have been shown if they are used while you are pregnant.

Only very small amounts of EMLA get into the blood so even though your baby can take in EMLA from breast milk

if you are breastfeeding, it is unlikely to cause any problems.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and EMLA may interfere with each other. These include:

- a sulphonamide antibiotic eg sulfatrimoxazole
- medicines used to treat irregular heartbeat such as amiodarone
- other local anaesthetics

Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell them before you use any EMLA.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect EMLA.

4. How do I use EMLA?

How to use EMLA

EMLA is available as a cream or a patch.

Instructions on how to use it are included in the box. Please read them carefully. The instructions also give maximum doses for adults and children. Do not exceed the maximum doses as this can cause harmful side effects, particularly in infants under 3 months of age.

On intact skin

The most important thing to do is to be sure that you apply EMLA at least one hour before you are due to have the procedure except for skin grafting where a two hour application time is required or for procedures on male genital skin where only fifteen minutes is required.

Leg ulcers

If you are using EMLA on leg ulcers you only need to apply the cream 30 minutes before your ulcer is going to be cleaned.

EMLA can be left on for several hours and still work.

If you forget to use it

Apply EMLA as soon as you realise it if it is less than an hour until you are supposed to have the procedure. Tell your doctor exactly when you put EMLA on and they will decide when the procedure can take place.

If you use too much EMLA

If you think that you have used too much EMLA, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (**by calling 13 11 26**), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Do not exceed the maximum recommended dose or length of administration. Children, particularly those aged below 3 months of age, are at an increased risk of serious adverse effects in overdose.

For most procedures, it is very difficult to use too much EMLA. Be careful not to use too much in procedures where larger amounts may be required, such as cosmetic hair removal (see Package Insert for maximum amounts). Using too much EMLA may cause unwanted side effects. Some of these can be serious, such as methaemoglobinaemia (a condition where the blood cannot take enough oxygen to your body) or cardiovascular effects (effects on your heart and lungs).

If you use too much EMLA, you may notice the following:

- nervousness
- dizziness
- difficulty breathing
- numbness of the mouth
- your skin turning blue (a symptom of methaemoglobinaemia)
- blurred vision
- shaky hands
- a rash where EMLA has not been applied.

5. What should I know while using EMLA?

Things you should do

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using EMLA.

Remember to apply EMLA on intact skin at least one hour before your procedure is due. For leg ulcers remember to apply EMLA 30 minutes before your ulcer is due to be cleaned. Apply EMLA two hours before split skin grafting and at least fifteen minutes before a procedure on male genital skin.

If you do not, your or your child's appointment may have to be delayed, or the procedure may hurt more than it would otherwise.

If you or your child are using EMLA on leg ulcers, only use the tube once. Throw out any cream left in the tube after use.

Be sure to follow the instructions in the pack on how to apply EMLA cream or patch carefully.

Make sure the patch or the dressing covering the cream is firmly fixed, especially on young children.

If EMLA is not covered carefully it may not work effectively.

Things you should not do

Do not use EMLA cream on leg ulcers for longer than 2 months without checking with your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not let EMLA get into the eyes.

It may cause eye irritation. If EMLA does get into your eyes, immediately rinse them with large amounts of water and contact your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

Looking after your medicine

Keep your cream or patches in the pack until it is time to use them.

If you squeeze EMLA out of the tube or open the patches it will not keep well.

Keep EMLA cream in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C. Do not let it freeze.

Keep EMLA patches in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Do not let them freeze.

Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

When to discard your medicine (as relevant)

Ask your pharmacist what to do with any EMLA you have left over if your doctor tells you to stop using it, or you find that the expiry date has passed.

6. Are there any side effects?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you or your child do not feel well while using EMLA.

EMLA helps most people to undergo minor procedures without feeling pain, but it may have unwanted side-effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not.

You may need medical treatment if you or your child get some of the side effects.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">any local reactions such as itching, swelling, paleness, redness or a burning sensation. These are all mild side effects of EMLA.	Speak to your doctor if you have any of these mild side effects.

	effects and they worry you
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Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a rash at a spot where EMLA is not being useddifficulty breathingdizzinessshaky handsblurred visionareas of skin becoming blue These are very serious side effects. Serious side effects are very rare.	Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you or your child feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

7. Product details

This medicine is available over-the-counter without a doctor's prescription.

What EMLA contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">lidocaine 25 mg/gprilocaine 25 mg/g
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">carbomer 974Ppolyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oilsodium hydroxide

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What EMLA looks like

EMLA Cream is a white, soft, homogenous cream, packed in an aluminium tube.

5 x 5 g tubes (with 10 dressings)

1 x 5 g tube (with 2 dressings)

or 30 g tube.

EMLA Patch is circular cellulose disc on a square, thin, flexible aluminium/plastic laminate with adhesive surface and peel-off protective liner.

Packs of 2 or 20 patches.

Who distributes EMLA

Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd

34-36 Chandos St

St Leonards NSW 2065

Australia

This leaflet was prepared in July 2025.

Australian Registration Number (ARTG)

EMLA Cream

1 or 5 x 5 g - 12046

30 g - 12886

EMLA Patch – 60820

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