



Maximum Recommended Doses of Local Anaesthetics Guidelines

Procedure Number

CHC-PA-0005

Version Nos:

2

Agent	Maximum recommended dose
Bupivacaine	2 mg/kg
Ropivacaine	3 mg/kg
Lidocaine	4 mg/kg
Lidocaine w adrenaline	6 mg/kg
Prilocaine	6 mg/kg

These guidelines apply to healthy adult males and healthy adult non-pregnant females.

Reduce the dose in patients with congestive heart failure, decreased liver function, renal impairment, diabetes, acidosis, hypoxaemia and high age, as both pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics is altered in these patients. Site of injection with relation to vascularity and absorption, and rate of injection, will also influence the dose that can be given.

Higher doses can be applied over 24 hours but rarely within 2 – 4 hours

Early signs of toxicity are:

- Light headedness
- Numbness of tongue and circumoral tissues
- Slurred speech
- Visual disturbances
- Sleepiness

Further absorption of the local anaesthetic can lead to severe toxicity with convulsion, cardiac arrest and death, if not ignored or not recognised and not treated.

It is the responsibility of the person injecting the local anaesthetic solution to ensure that local anaesthetic toxicity is avoided.

Do not hesitate to discuss volumes, concentrations and doses with an anaesthetist prior to injecting a local anaesthetic agent.

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