LOCAL ANAESTHETICS

Common local anesthetics are procaine (Novacaine), bupivicaine, [lidocaine](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/umnuser/formulary.html#Lidocaine) (Xylocaine) and proparacaine. Considerable experience and skill are necessary in the administration of local anesthetics to animals, and aseptic techniques must be employed. Some animals must be sedated before local anesthetics are injected.

Local anesthetics may be administered by several techniques. Anesthetic effects are seen within 15 minutes of administration and may last from 45 minutes to several hours, depending on the drug used.

* + *Infiltration or infusion-*injection beneath the skin and other tissue layers along the site of an incision before or after a procedure
  + *Field block, ring block*- injection into soft tissues distant from the actual incision in a pattern that intersects the nerve supplying the surgical site
  + *Nerve conduction block*- infusion of a small amount of drug or directly adjacent to the sheath of a nerve supplying the surgical site
  + *Regional or spinal anesthesia*- injection into the vertebral canal, epidurally or into the sub-arachnoid space. To avoid systemic toxicity, care must always be taken not to inject local anesthetics into blood vessels.
  + Topical local anesthetics, such as lidocaine jelly, may be useful for some surgical wounds.