

## FAQs on Local Anaesthetics.

### Question 1.

**How long does the vasoconstrictor action of epinephrine take to work?**

**Answer:**

Full vasoconstriction requires 7-15 minutes.

*Reference:*

*Grekin RC, Auletta MJ. Local anaesthesia in dermatologic surgery. J Am Acad Dermatol 1988; 19: 599-614.*

### Question 2.

**What is the maximum dosage of lidocaine 1% and bupivacaine 0.25%?**

**Answer:**

	Onset (min)	Duration		Maximum dose (mg/kg)	
		With Epinephrine	Without epinephrine	With Epinephrine	Without epinephrine
Lidocaine 1%	<1	60-400	30-120	7 (adult) 3-4.5 (children)	5 (adult) 1.5-2 (children)
Bupivacaine 0.25%	2-10	240-480	120-240	3 (adult)	2.5 (adult)

*Reference:*

*Covino BG. Pharmacology of local anaesthetic agents. Br J Anaesh 1986; 16:701-716.*

### Question 3.

**How safe is lidocaine during pregnancy and lactation?**

**Answer:**

Lidocaine is generally safe for use during pregnancy. No teratogenic effects have been found for its use in first trimester of the pregnancy<sup>1</sup>. Lidocaine is labelled as pregnancy category B along with prilocaine and etidocaine. Bupivacaine and mepivacaine are pregnancy category C for potential risk of causing fetal bradycardia<sup>2</sup>. Large amount of anaesthetic used in nursing mother can cause toxicity to the infant as it is excreted in breast milk<sup>2</sup>.

*References:*

1. Lawrence C. Drug management in skin surgery. *Drugs* 1996; 52: 805-817.

2. Richards KA, Stasko T. Dermatologic surgery and the pregnant patient. *Dermatol Surg* 2002;28:248-258.

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