

Section: Division of Nursing

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PROCEDURE

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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MATERNAL SERVICES

(Scope)

TITLE: EMLA CREAM

PURPOSE: To outline the procedure to use Emla cream to relieve discomfort at the site of insertion of IV or epidural catheter.

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Emla cream can be used for all IV starts, for all blood work and for all insertions of epidural anesthesia on all OB-GYN patients requiring a non-emergent IV, non-emergent lab work and/or non-emergent epidural anesthesia.

Use requires a provider's order.

**CONTENT
TECNIQUE**

PROCEDURE

KEY POINTS

1. At Pyxis machine, enter patient's name and withdraw one five-gram tube of emla cream and obtain occlusive dressings for five areas.

Fax order to pharmacy for profiling in pyxis.

Emla cream is indicated as a topical anesthetic for use on normal intact skin for local analgesia.

2. Determine two probable IV sites.

3. Prepare both antecubital areas (for lab work access)

4. For epidural,(obtain order from anesthesia) determine space between L2 and L5 vertebrae (with patient lying on her side, palpate the anterior-superior iliac spine process, slide your hand to her back, this is approximately = to L4).

Cover the emla cream so that you get a thick layer underneath. Do not spread out the cream. Mark time of application directly on the occlusive dressing.

5. Scan patient and medication using C5 for Cerner electronic MAR.

6. Use proper hand washing and use of gloves.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Emla cream (lidocaine 2.5% and prilocaine 2.5%) is contraindicated in patients with a known history of sensitivity to local anesthetics of the amide type or to any other component of the product.

7. Place a "dime" size amount of emla cream on selected sites and cover with an occlusive dressing. This must be done 1/2 - 2 hours before procedure is to be done.

8. When ready to access site, simply remove dressing and proceed as usual.

9. Document in electronic nurse's notes.

10. Observe skin for any signs of local irritation.

Reference: Product insert: Astra* Westborough, Ma 01581, Lycka, Ba **Medline Record**