



SWEETGRASS

PHARMACY & COMPOUNDING

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Sweetgrass Pharmacy and Compounding Patient Rights and Obligations regarding receiving Topical Anesthetics

Topical anesthetics are used in a wide variety of settings and applications and are generally considered safe. There is, however, a risk of toxicity due to systemic absorption. Case reports exist in which excessive or inappropriate application resulted in serious consequences. Signs of topical anesthetic toxicity include slurred speech, lightheadedness, cyanosis, oral numbness, nausea, vomiting, tremor, nystagmus, cardiac arrhythmia, respiratory or cardiopulmonary arrest, seizures and death..

When applied appropriately, topical anesthetics do not reach sufficient systemic concentrations to elicit these effects. Dosing recommendations must therefore be followed closely by practitioners and communicated to patients obtaining topical anesthetics for their own use. Several factors contribute to the potential for systemic absorption of topical anesthetics: application to thin or broken skin, application to mucous membranes, over-application, occlusion of application site, application of heat, use of lasers or iontophoresis (as in dermatologic procedures), and application to a large area of skin.

Caution must be used when applying anesthetics to mucous membranes and areas of thin skin. The smallest effective amount of medication should be applied and allowed sufficient time to take effect. Higher concentrations are not necessarily more effective and may pose more of a risk for toxicity.

By signing below you understand the risk of toxicity and importance of dosing correctly and educating your patients on the risks and signs of toxicity.

Name

Date

Signature

Office
