

# Local Anaesthetic

## Why is it used?

Local anaesthetic is a simple and effective method to reduce pain during fillings or extractions. It temporarily causes the loss of sensation to the area and will wear off on its own in 2-4 hours.

## How is it done?



- First we use a numbing gel on the gums around the tooth. This takes about 30 seconds then the area is ready to be put to sleep
- We use a short, very fine needle to put the anaesthetic into the gum beside the tooth. Your child might feel a little pinch or scratch when it goes in then it will start feeling numb.
- The local anaesthetic has a bitter taste, so we rinse it off with water afterwards.

## Care after Local Anaesthetic:

- Local anaesthetic will last a few hours before wearing off, so it's important for your child to be careful while eating, as they may not feel their lip or parts of their tongue during this time.
- It's really important your child doesn't bite, suck, or touch their lip while it's still numb. This could hurt the lip and cause a red swollen ulcer which can be painful for 3-4 days until it heals. If an ulcer is not healing after 7 days please contact Bee Healthy or consult a doctor.



**For information about free dental care for under 18s:**

**Visit: [www.beehealthy.org.nz](http://www.beehealthy.org.nz) Call: 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583)**