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PATIENT INFORMATION SERIES

12. EMLA (Application Instructions)

- EMLA is a new topical anesthetic that can deaden the skin enough to perform minor surgery. It does not work immediately and does not work on normal skin without help.

- Apply the EMLA to the affected skin approximately 90 minutes before your scheduled appointment. Use at least half of the five gram tube for each area to be treated. Apply it thick, like cream cheese on a bagel. Cover the medication with the special clear plastic dressing that should have come with the prescription. It is called **TEGADERM** and is self adhering. Simply peel off the waxed paper backing and apply it neatly over the medication. Don't forget to remove the pieces that are stuck to the edges also.

- **DO NOT USE SARAN WRAP.** Tell the pharmacist to sell you **Tegaderm dressings**. They will not offer them to you automatically.

- Leave the dressing in place until the doctor removes it in the office.