

Primary Pain Relief for Tail Docking and Castration

NumOcaine® Information

Number of doses per bottle (expected)	65
Fixed dose volume dispensed via Numnuts® device	1.5ml
Storage temperature (refrigeration not required)	<25°C
Shelf life after opening	28 days
NumOcaine® expiry date from manufacture	3 years
Withholding Period (WHP)	0

- ▶ Dual-action tool for ring castration and tail docking of lambs
- ▶ Injects local anaesthetic and applies rings to lambs aged 2-12 weeks
- ▶ Ergonomic design for efficient workflow and easy operation
- ▶ Meets industry best practice guidelines and regulatory requirements



NumOcaine® – Lignocaine hydrochloride 20mg/ml

NumOcaine® effectively blocks nerve signals during the acute pain period in the first hour after castration. After this time, the ring has largely disabled nerve (Ischaemia) function, and the lamb's pain decreases. This is when the slower long-term pain associated with injury and healing begins.³

Farmers who supply the NZ Merino Company under the ZQ Programme, have been directed that pain relief for lambs will be required for tailing, castration and any severe shearing injuries on farms from mid-2025.

Whilst not yet legislated in New Zealand, pain relief is recommended as best practice in the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) code of welfare.⁴

NumOcaine® label

Benefits. Clinical trials showed NumOcaine® reduced pain from ring marking significantly. Scientists observed up to a significant **68% reduction**¹ in pain-related behaviours within 1 hour using the Numnuts Device and NumOcaine. The use of Numnuts® with NumOcaine® also improves mothering up.²

Indications. NumOcaine® is a local anaesthetic injection for sheep during castration and tail docking with rings.

Precautions. Safety studies have only been conducted up to two times the dose in 2-10 week old lambs. Use with caution to avoid overdosing.

Restraints. DO NOT:

- Use for any other purpose other than the purpose approved on product label.
- Tamper with or remove the Quick Change Cartridge collar from the bottle.

USE ONLY with the Numnuts® device.

Dosage & Administration.

Each injection delivers 1.5ml.

Administer according to the directions provided with the Numnuts® applicator device in conjunction with rubber ring application for tail docking and castration.

The injection must be administered under the skin (subcutaneously) at the dorsal midline at the third palpable joint for tail docking or dorsal midline of the scrotum for castration with the Numnuts® applicator, as illustrated in the diagrams.

Dispensing Local Anaesthetic for Castration	
Correct Position of Device	Numnuts® Target Site
<p>Position the lamb on its back in the cradle, with its tail nearest the operator.</p> <p>Apply the ring with the device. The ring bunches nerves together at the target site.</p> <p>Next, press the dual stage injector as shown. The device automatically extends and angles the needle to the correct position, injecting NumOcaine® on the body side of the ring.</p>	<p>Numnuts® technology deposits the anaesthetic at the target site consistently.</p> <p>When the device is held in position, the needle is sitting on the testicles side of the ring. When user presses the dual stage injector, the needle injects NumOcaine® on the body side of the ring, anaesthetising the nerves.</p>
Dispensing Local Anaesthetic for Tail Docking	
Correct Position of Device	Numnuts® Target Site
<p>Position the lamb on its back in the cradle, with its tail nearest the operator.</p> <p>Apply the ring with the device. The recommended location is the 3rd or 4th joint space, felt by hand.</p> <p>The device automatically extends and angles the needle to the correct position, injecting NumOcaine® on the body side of the ring.</p>	<p>Numnuts® technology deposits the anaesthetic at the target site consistently.</p>

Lamb pain behaviours with and without NumOcaine® local anaesthetic

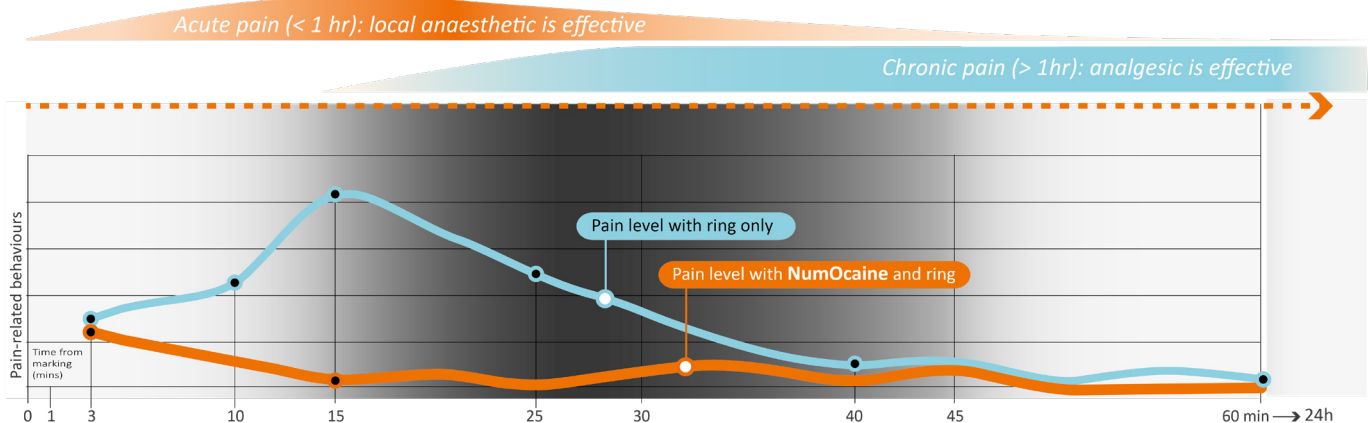


Figure 1: A. Small et al; Local anesthetic delivered with a dual action ring and injection applicator Numnuts reduces the acute pain response of lambs during tail docking; Animals 11(8):2242; Aug 2021

References: <https://www.youtube.com/@numnutsdevice>

1. Internal data on file
2. Small AH, Jongman EC, Niemeyer D, Lee C, Colditz IG. Efficacy of precisely injected single local bolus of lignocaine for alleviation of behavioural responses to pain during tail docking and castration of lambs with rubber rings. Res Vet Sci. 2020 Dec; 133:210-21
3. Meat and Livestock agency, Fact sheet – Pain mitigation in sheep and Cattle 2020
4. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/46045-Code-of-Welfare-Painful-husbandry-procedures>

Additional information:

1. Small AH, Fisher A, Lee C, Colditz UG, Gap Evaluation of Pain Alleviation Research. AWI Final report. June 2020
2. Acute castration and/or tailing distress and its alleviation in lambs D.J. Mellor *§ and K.J. Stafford† NZ vet journal 2000

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