

What are the side effects?

Lidocaine is a relatively safe drug when given as prescribed. The incidence and risk of toxicity goes up as the dose increases. Signs and symptoms to look for include:

- Signs of an allergic reaction (very rare): Itching, joint pain, eyelid swelling, low blood pressure, and asthma. This will be monitored for during your test dose.
- 1. Mild-Lightheadedness, nausea, and numbness around the eyes and mouth – this may require slight decrease in the dose.
- 2. Moderate-Metallic taste in your mouth, dizziness – this may require a stoppage of the infusion. Next time, it will be started in the clinic at a lower dose.
- 3. Severe (rare)-Hallucinations, muscle twitches, fits or seizures, faintness, severe drowsiness, vomiting, palpitations, chest pain.

What do I do if I experience any of these side effects (SE)?

1. **Mild SE – document and let your physician know next visit.**
2. **Moderate SE- Stop infusion – contact physician for next steps.**
3. **Severe SE – Stop infusion immediately and seek medical help.**

CONTACT NAMES & NUMBERS

Doctor: _____

Home & Community Care

Pharmacy _____

Other instructions



REGIONAL PAIN PROGRAM

Lidocaine Infusions

For Pain Management



Helping People in Pain
to Maximize
Quality of Life and
Overall Function

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Lidocaine?

Lidocaine is a local anesthetic similar to the anesthetics dentists use to numb your tooth. Its value in pain control is its ability to quiet the nerves. It is considered for patients with nerve pain syndromes that are not controlled by usual medications and interventions.

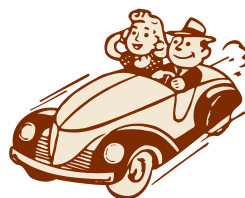
Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you have an allergy to local anesthetics ending with 'caine', have heart conduction problems, uncontrolled seizures or blood pressure, or if you are taking dihydroergotamine (DHE). These conditions may make the use of lidocaine not feasible for you due to increased risk of side effects.

How is the lidocaine given?

Lidocaine is not available by tablet or capsule so must be delivered by intravenous infusion (directly into your veins) or by subcutaneous infusion (under your skin). Doses are given every 2-3 weeks depending on your response.

Before your first dose, you may have a 12-lead ECG, a test that checks how your heart is functioning.

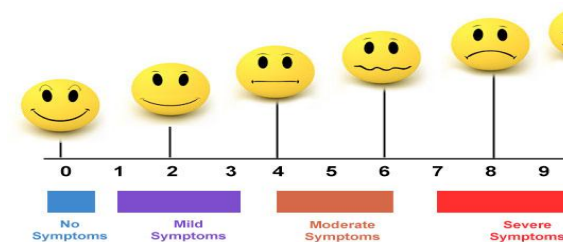
A **test dose** may be given, either intravenously or subcutaneously, to determine if this treatment is effective and that you can tolerate it. A trial of up to two trial treatments may be administered in the Pain Clinic to determine if it is effective and to find the right dose. Many patients feel sluggish and sleepy when they first receive this medication. For this reason it is recommended that you have someone drive you home from the clinic after your test doses and that you take it easy that day.



How do I tell if it is working?

Your response to treatment will be evaluated in many different ways:

- 1. Pain severity scale** – scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is no pain, and 10 is the worst possible pain.



- 2. Function** – Improvement in function that was previously impaired due to pain such as personal care (bathing, grooming, and toileting) and home activities such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, gardening etc.



- 3. Activity level/mobility** – Assessment in improvement of activities that were previously impaired by pain.
- 4. Pain diary / Questionnaire** – You may be asked to keep a pain diary after test doses to help you document response to the treatment, or you may be asked to complete a questionnaire at various times during your therapy. The staff will provide you with the form you will need.