

# Lidocaine Infusion for Pain Management

You are being offered this treatment as part of your pain management plan as discussed with your doctor.

## What Is a Lidocaine IV Infusion?

Lidocaine is a local anaesthetic. The lidocaine infusion is given through an intravenous (IV). It is used for patients who have widespread chronic pain. This treatment has been studied and has been found to be safe and helpful.

## How Does It Work?

Lidocaine works by temporarily blocking the pain signal route along your nerve fibers. It quiets the nerves, hopefully resulting in less pain.

## Are There Any Side Effects?

Medications and their possible side effects can affect people in different ways. Serious side effects or complications from lidocaine are very rare.

Side effects can include:

- Dizziness;
- Blurred vision;
- Garbled speech;
- Shortness of breath;
- Ringing in your ears;
- Nausea; or
- Feeling drunk.

These side effects go away quickly by decreasing or stopping the Lidocaine infusion.

## Can Lidocaine Affect Other Medications?

It is important to tell the doctor and nurse giving your infusion what drugs and medications you are taking and if you have any allergies. Bring a complete list of all medications, including over-the-counter and herbal medicines, to your first visit. Tell your nurse about changes to your list in future visits.

## What Should I Expect?

Plan to be at the hospital for at least two hours and make arrangements for someone to drive you home. Drink plenty of fluids the day before and the day of your infusion. Take your medications as prescribed unless you are given other instructions by your doctor.

When you get to Ambulatory Care, you will have an IV started, and the nurse will watch your blood pressure, pulse and heart rhythm at set times. The lidocaine dose is based on weight and your response to the medication since your last visit. The dose can be increased or decreased with each visit after talking with your doctor. The infusion will take one hour, followed by 30 minutes of observation. If at any time during the infusion you have any concerns, please let your nurse know right away.

After the infusion is completed the doctor will give you your next appointment date and time. Please do not leave until you have your next appointment.

## What Should I Expect After the Infusion?

You may be tired when you leave the hospital, so take it easy for the rest of the day.

Results may vary. You may have less pain for up to three to six weeks. One of the goals of lidocaine therapy is to lessen the dependency on narcotics, and improve your quality of life.

## Contact Information

If you have questions about lidocaine infusions, please contact the Infusion Clinic at 519-464-4400, Ext. 4402.