

Pain Management Service

Lidocaine infusion

What is a lidocaine infusion?

Lidocaine is a local anaesthetic similar to the anaesthetic that dentists use to numb your gums. It works by calming nerves which are firing when they should not be, thereby reducing your pain.

The lidocaine infusion is administered directly into the vein. The infusion is continuous and will take 45-60 minutes to complete.

Benefits

Patients can experience pain relief and function better after the procedure. Lidocaine infusion can be effective in certain types of nerve related pain. Occasionally this procedure is used to help reduce other medications such as morphine.

Risks

Lidocaine is a relatively safe drug when given at a carefully calculated dose.

Unfortunately no medical procedure is risk free.

- Short term side effects may include numbness around your mouth, dizziness, slurring of speech, hallucinations and muscle twitching. These effects will go away once the infusion is reduced or stopped.
- There is a possibility that you may have an allergic reaction to the drugs used.
- In rare cases the injection can cause seizures or fitting which would require the procedure to be stopped and anti-seizure drugs to be given.

There may be an increase in your symptoms for a short period which may take up to a week to subside after which benefits of the treatment will be felt.



Patient Information

Before the procedure

- You will be sent an appointment to attend the Day Surgery Unit at the University Hospitals, Coventry.
- You will have the treatment as an outpatient.
- Please do not eat for 4 hours before the procedure; you can have water until 2 hours prior.
- You should arrange for someone to drive you home after your treatment.
- Your stay may vary between 1 to 3 hours.
- Please bring a list of your current medications with you.
- Your doctor will discuss the procedure with you and ask you to sign a consent form.

If there is any possibility that you may be pregnant please inform the doctor or nurse.

The procedure

- You will be asked to lie on a trolley.
- You will have your blood pressure and pulse taken at regular intervals during the procedure.
- A cannula (a small plastic tube, sometimes referred to as a drip) will be inserted into a vein, usually in the back of the hand. This will be secured by a dressing.
- An infusion will be prepared by the doctor. This will be given to you through the cannula. This will be a mixture of Saline (salty water) and lidocaine (the local anaesthetic drug).
- The infusion will take 45-60 minutes to complete.

Following the procedure

- After the procedure the nursing staff will observe you for 10-15 minutes before going home. This is to ensure that you are fit enough to be safely discharged.
- Before you go home the cannula will be removed and a small dressing applied to the insertion site. This can be removed later in the day at home.

Patient Information

- Please be careful when you first get off the trolley – ensure you are steady on your feet.
- Take your regular medication and pain killers as normal.
- A letter will be sent to your GP detailing the procedure undertaken

Please ensure that you have arranged for someone to drive you home after this procedure.

The information in this leaflet is not intended to replace your doctor's advice. If you require more information or have any questions, please speak to your doctor prior to the consent for the procedure.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the pain management secretaries on 024 7696 5880 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

To give feedback on this leaflet please email: feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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