

Pain Management Service

Lidocaine infusion

What is a lidocaine infusion?

Lidocaine is a local anaesthetic similar to the medicine that dentists use to numb your gums. It acts by calming the nerves thereby reducing the pain.

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

Benefits

Lidocaine infusion can be effective in reducing nerve related pain. Occasionally, this procedure is used to help reduce other medications such as morphine. Beneficial effects of the infusion can last for weeks to months.

Risks

Lidocaine is a relatively safe drug when given at a carefully calculated dose but there are the following risks:

- 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 very rare cases the injection can cause seizures or fitting, changes in heart rhythm or blood pressure which would require the procedure to be stopped and emergency medicines to be given.



Patient Information

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.

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 sips of water until admission.
- Take all your regular medications. If you are on medicines for diabetes, discuss with your doctor on what to do on the day of the treatment.
- Please bring a list of your current medications with you.
- Your stay may vary between 1 to 2 hours.
- You should arrange for someone to drive you home after your treatment.
- Your doctor will discuss the procedure with you and take consent.

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). Additional medications such as Magnesium (that can also help in certain pain conditions) may be added to infusion.
- The infusion will take 45-60 minutes to complete.

Patient Information

After 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.
- 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. You can reduce pain killers once you feel benefits of the infusion. However, do not stop medications suddenly without consulting your doctor.
- Please do not drive or operate heavy machinery for 24 hours after treatment.
- A letter will be sent to your GP detailing your procedure.

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 before consenting to 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 5911 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Patient Information

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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Document History

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