

# Pain Management Service

## Lidocaine infusion

### What a lidocaine infusion is

Lidocaine is a local anaesthetic, similar to what dentists use to numb your gums. It works by calming the nerves and reducing pain.

During the procedure, lidocaine is given directly into the vein as a continuous infusion. The infusion usually takes 45-60 minutes.

### Benefits

- Lidocaine infusion can help reduce nerve-related pain.
- Sometimes it can help reduce the need for other pain medicines, such as morphine.
- The benefits can last for weeks to months.

### Risks

Lidocaine is generally safe when given in carefully calculated doses, but there are some risks:

#### Short-term side effects may include:

- Numbness around the mouth
- Dizziness
- Slurred speech
- Hallucinations
- Muscle twitching



## Patient Information

These effects usually settle once the infusion is reduced or stopped.

### **Other risks include:**

- Allergic reaction to the medicine used
- Rarely, seizures, changes in heart rhythm, or blood pressure issues that would require the infusion to be stopped and emergency treatment given.
- After the infusion, your symptoms may temporarily increase for up to a week before the benefits are felt.

### **Before the procedure**

- You will receive an appointment to attend the day surgery unit at the Willow Ward at St Cross Hospital, Rugby.
- You will have the treatment as an outpatient.
- Do not eat for 4 hours before your appointment, but you may have sips of water.
- Take your regular medicines as usual. If you take diabetes medicines, check with your doctor about the dose on the day.
- Bring a list of your current medicines.
- Your stay will be about 1 to 2 hours.
- Arrange for someone to drive you home.
- Your doctor will explain the procedure and take consent.

**If there is any chance you may be pregnant, please tell the doctor or nurse.**

### **The procedure**

- You will be asked to lie on a trolley.
- Your blood pressure and pulse will be monitored during the infusion.
- A cannula (a small plastic tube, sometimes referred to as a drip) will be inserted into a vein, usually on the back of your hand. This will be secured with a dressing.

## Patient Information

- The infusion will be prepared by the doctor. It contains saline (salt water) and lidocaine (the local anaesthetic drug). Sometimes Magnesium may be added if it is suitable for your pain condition.
- The infusion will take 45-60 minutes to complete.

## After the procedure

- Nursing staff will observe you for 10-15 minutes before you go home.
- The cannula will then be removed and a small dressing applied. This can be removed later at home.
- Take care when getting up from the trolley, Make sure you feel steady.
- Take your regular medicines and pain killers as normal. You may reduce painkillers once the treatment helps, but do not stop medicines suddenly without consulting your doctor.
- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery for 24 hours after treatment.
- A letter will be sent to your GP detailing the procedure.

**Please make sure someone drives you home after this procedure.**

## More information

This leaflet does not replace advice from your doctor. If you have any questions, please speak to your doctor before signing the consent form.

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

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#### Document History

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