Lidocaine Infusions for Relief of Constant and Long Term Pain

Outpatient
What is a Lidocaine infusion?
Your pain doctor has ordered a series of Lidocaine intravenous (IV) Infusions to treat your pain. This IV medicine is like the “freezing” the dentists use to numb your tooth when you get a filling. It seems to work by quieting the nerves that cause your pain. It works very well to lower certain kinds of pain.

How is it given?
It is given by IV over ½ hour.
It involves a series of weekly infusions.

Are there any side effects?
It is quite safe when given in low doses. But, even at low doses, certain side effects can occur. The most common side effects are usually related to having too much of the drug in your body. These will go away quickly when the drug is stopped.

More common side effects include:
• A numb feeling around your mouth, slurred speech, dizziness, or even a sense of being drunk.
• Hallucinations or a sense of being outside your body.
• Muscle twitches or itchy skin.

More serious but rare side effects may include:
• Seizures (fits) or
• Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction).

What can I expect when I arrive for my treatment?
• The infusion is done in the Recovery Room of the Dartmouth General Hospital.
• Your pain doctor and a nurse will be present.
• You will be put on heart and blood pressure monitors. Your heart rate and blood pressure will be watched closely during the infusion.
• Plan to spend about 1 hour with us. The infusion takes 30 minutes. During the next 30 minutes we will watch you for any reactions to the drug.
• Please arrange for a drive home.
• Most people have a “quiet” day at home after the treatment.

Questions or Concerns?
If you have any questions about the treatment or what to expect please call the Pain Clinic Nurse at 465-8389. Your pain doctor is always available during the treatment to discuss any concerns you may have.
• Hallucinations or a sense of being outside your body.
• Muscle twitches or itchy skin.

More serious but rare side effects may include:
• Seizures (fits) or
• Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction).

What can I expect when I arrive for my treatment?
• The infusion is done in the Recovery Room of the Dartmouth General Hospital.
• Your pain doctor and a nurse will be present.
• You will be put on heart and blood pressure monitors. Your heart rate and blood pressure will be watched closely during the infusion.
• Plan to spend about 1 hour with us. The infusion takes 30 minutes. During the next 30 minutes we will watch you for any reactions to the drug.
• Please arrange for a drive home.
• Most people have a “quiet” day at home after the treatment.

Questions or Concerns?
If you have any questions about the treatment or what to expect please call the Pain Clinic Nurse at 465-8389. Your pain doctor is always available during the treatment to discuss any concerns you may have.
What is a Lidocaine infusion?
Your pain doctor has ordered a series of Lidocaine intravenous (IV) Infusions to treat your pain. This IV medicine is like the “freezing” the dentists use to numb your tooth when you get a filling. It seems to work by quieting the nerves that cause your pain. It works very well to lower certain kinds of pain.

How is it given?
It is given by IV over ½ hour.
It involves a series of weekly infusions.

Are there any side effects?
It is quite safe when given in low doses. But, even at low doses, certain side effects can occur. The most common side effects are usually related to having too much of the drug in your body. These will go away quickly when the drug is stopped.

More common side effects include:
• A numb feeling around your mouth, slurred speech, dizziness, or even a sense of being drunk.
Lidocaine Infusions for Relief of Constant and Long Term Pain

Outpatient

Looking for more health information?
Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazine articles and online health information.
For a list of public libraries in Nova Scotia go to www.publiclibraries.ns.ca

Capital Health promotes a smoke-free and scent-free environment.
Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

Capital Health, Nova Scotia
www.cdha.nshealth.ca

Prepared by: Dartmouth General Chronic Pain Clinic, NS ©
Illustration by: LifeART Health Care & Emergency Images, Copyright © 1994, TechPool Studios Corp. USA
Designed and Printed by: Capital Health Audio Visual and Printing Departments

The information in this brochure is provided for information and education purposes only.
The information is not intended to be and does not constitute healthcare or medical advice.
If you have any questions, please ask your healthcare provider.

DG85-1456 Created July 2012
The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years.