

Lidocaine Intravenous Infusion

Welcome to the Michael G. Degroote Pain Clinic (MGD). This information discusses what to expect during your treatment with a Lidocaine Infusion.

Your doctor has prescribed a lidocaine treatment which will be given through an intravenous (IV) tube into a vein in your arm. This is given as a treatment for chronic nerve pain. Your doctor will explain the treatment and have you sign a consent form.

Prepare for your visit

- Bring your current medication list with you.
- An adult must drive you home. This visit will last 1 to 2 hours.
- You may take your normal medications as usual before and after you receive the Lidocaine.
- Be sure to tell the doctor or the nurse if you are taking Mexilitine or Phenytoin as these can increase the chance of side effects.

When you arrive at the Pain Clinic

Please check in with reception to be registered.

A nurse will:

- bring you to the treatment area
- check your weight
- ask you about the medications you take
- take your blood pressure, pulse, and oxygen level
- ask you about pain scores, effectiveness of treatment, and changes in your medical history
- start an intravenous (IV)

Heart monitor

- Before treatment starts you may be sent for an electrocardiogram (ECG). If needed, you may be connected to a heart monitor during treatment.

Receiving the Lidocaine

- After the IV is started, the Lidocaine medication will run through your IV. Your doctor determines how long the medication will be given.
- A nurse will check your blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels regularly.
- After completion, you will stay a few minutes, and when you feel well the IV is removed and you may go home.

Side effects

Fortunately, serious side effects or complications are rare. Please tell your nurse of any side effects right away.

Common side effects may include:

- metallic taste
- headache
- feeling sleepy or drowsy
- nausea (sick to your stomach)
- tremor (shaking)

Rare side effects may include

- numbness or tingling of the mouth or tongue
- dizziness/lightheadedness
- change in blood pressure
- change in pulse
- tinnitus (ringing in your ears)
- blurred vision
- seizure
- irregular heart beat
- trouble speaking

After the infusion

- Do not drive the day of the infusion. You can usually begin normal activities the next day.
- It can be helpful to record how much pain relief you get and how long it lasts, and tell your doctor on the next visit