

Post operation information

Painkillers such as paracetamol can be taken to control any discomfort.

Take all your regular medication as usual.

Keep a pain log over the next few days and weeks following your procedure (as this is the only way we will know if your infusion has worked).

Your pain specialist will decide on the frequency of the infusions you receive based on the amount of pain relief you get.

If you experience no pain relief, do not be discouraged; talk with the pain team for other alternatives.

Keep your follow up appointment, which will be sent out in the post to your home address for **weeks/months**.

Other useful organisations (resources)

<http://www.patient.co.uk/>

<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/index.asp>

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital
Marshall Cross Road,
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA
Telephone: 01744 26633

 /sthknhs  @sthk.nhs
www.sthk.nhs.uk

Lidocaine Intravenous Infusion

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in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

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What is a Lidocaine Intravenous Infusion?

A lidocaine infusion is when local anesthetic is given by a pump, over approximately 60 minutes, into a vein.

It is prescribed to patients who have widespread chronic pain.

Although it is not specifically licensed for use in this way it is known to have beneficial results.

How does it work?

It works by decreasing both spontaneous nerve activity and the spread of pain signals in nerve fibers. In other words it quietsens the misbehaving nerves, thereby reducing the pain.

What does the infusion involve?

This treatment requires you to attend day surgery for a morning or afternoon session where you will meet your doctor.

You will stay on the ward for the whole session.

During the infusion you will be monitored using a heart monitor and your blood pressure, pulse and breathing will be recorded regularly throughout the session.

You will be allowed home when we are confident you have not suffered any significant side effects.

The treatment works over many days so you will not know how effective it has been in the day.

You will be followed up by a pain specialist to assess how beneficial the treatment has been and if you want it repeating.

What are the side effects of a Lidocaine Infusion?

Fortunately, serious side effects or complications are very rare and by being continuously monitored, the chances of problems arising are minimised.

However, even at the recommended dose, side effects can occur.

These include dizziness, headaches, drowsiness, tingling or numbness around your mouth, metallic taste, garbled speech, tunnel vision, ringing in your ears or a tremor, a sense of being drunk and nausea.

If any of these side effects do occur, they usually disappear once the infusion is slowed down or stopped.

Recognised potential complications of Lidocaine infusions include low or high blood pressure, a slow or fast pulse rate, irregular heartbeats, fainting, seizures or allergic reactions to Lidocaine which, in extremely rare cases, can lead to death.

Benefits

If this treatment helps then you may find a decrease in pain from severe to more manageable level.

You may be able to decrease the amount of painkillers you regularly consume and you might be able to do more.

Unfortunately we cannot guarantee you will benefit from this particular treatment.