

I.V. LIDOCAINE INFUSION

What is an I.V. Lidocaine infusion?

An I.V. Lidocaine infusion is an infusion of Lidocaine (local anesthetic) run into the bloodstream by way of an intravenous line. It is typically ordered by your doctor for neuropathic (nerve) pain or central pain syndromes that have not responded to other treatments. If effective in treating your pain it may have to be repeated to obtain long-term benefit. If short-term benefit is obtained but can't be prolonged with repeat infusions, a pill form (Mexilitene) may be tried after an EKG is obtained.

What are the risks of the procedure?

The risks of the procedure, though infrequent and generally dose related, include irregular heart rhythm, seizure, coma, and death. There is also a low risk of allergy to the medication. It is not unusual to get lightheadedness, dizziness, and slurred speech during the infusion. These are temporary and resolve quickly when the infusion rate is lowered or stopped.

What to expect during the procedure?

The only discomfort associated with the procedure is the start of the intravenous line. Local anesthetic is used to numb the skin before the I.V. line is placed. The anesthetic stings/burns when injected.

What happens during the actual procedure?

After signing a consent form and checking your blood pressure, an intravenous will be started. You will be asked what your pain score is on a scale of 0 – 10. The procedure will be done with you lying or sitting on the stretcher (whichever is more comfortable). An intravenous line will be started in one of your arms/hands. The Lidocaine mixture will run in over approximately 30 – 60 minutes (depending on your tolerance). You will be asked to let us know if you are lightheaded, have ringing in your ears, slurred speech, visual changes, dizziness, or changes in your pain during the infusion. The infusion rate will be adjusted if needed. You will be asked at different times during the infusion to rate your pain on the 0 – 10 scale. Your blood pressure and pulse will be monitored during the infusion. At the end of the infusion you will be asked to rate your pain again. Your blood pressure and pulse will be checked. When the effects of the Lidocaine have diminished, your intravenous will be removed. Your doctor will authorize your discharge when you're ready and your ride is present.

How will I feel after the infusion?

Immediately after the infusion you may feel a little "drunk". These effects will wear off quickly. The length of time that the pain stays reduced/gone will vary (if you get any pain relief). It is important that you keep track of the amount of pain relief you received as well as how long the pain relief lasted.

Will I have any restrictions on the day of the procedure?

You may NOT drive for the remainder of the day after your procedure. No heat is to be used on the injection area for the remainder of the day. No tub bath or soaking in water (pools/Jacuzzi, etc) for the remainder of the day.

For what reasons should I call the Southwest Ohio Pain Center after the injection?

If you experience severe back pain, new numbness or weakness of your legs, loss of control of

your bladder or bowels, or have signs of infection (temperature greater than 99.9° , drainage, redness/heat at insertion site) – call IMMEDIATELY.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

- ◆ Take all blood pressure pills & heart medications prior to the procedure with a sip of water at least 3 hours before your requested arrival time. Your vitals must be stable to have the procedure.
- ◆ Have a responsible person to take you home.
- ◆ Arrive at the requested procedure time. Please do not be late or your procedure may be cancelled.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE:

- ◆ **Do not** take ANY of the following 5 days before your procedure: Coumadin
- ◆ **Do not** take ANY of the following 7 days before your procedure: Plavix
- ◆ Coumadin must be stopped prior to the injection. You must have a normal INR prior to the injection. **Do not stop the drug by yourself.**
- ◆ Eat or drink 6 hours before the procedure.

NOTE: YOUR PROCEDURE WILL BE CANCELLED IF:

**You have an active infection, flu, cold, fever, or very high blood pressure.
You do not have a responsible driver to take you home, arrive late for your
procedure,
or unable to follow the medication / fluid restrictions.**

Call the office at (501) 219-1114 for procedure related questions.