Lignocaine Infusion

What is a Lignocaine Infusion?

Lignocaine Infusion treatment involves infusing the local anaesthetic Lignocaine over thirty minutes into a vein via a cannula. The treatment may be a single infusion or a series of infusions over two or three days, depending on the beneficial effects of the initial infusion.

What is Lignocaine?

Lignocaine is a local anaesthetic (numbing) drug that is used in anaesthesia, surgery, cardiology and pain medicine. In chronic pain it can be used for the treatment of a number of conditions that are typically associated with neuropathic nerve pain. These conditions may include; CRPS (complex regional pain syndrome), migraines, fibromyalgia, diabetic neuropathy, pain associated with previous surgery and cancer pain. Lignocaine Infusions can help some patients and have been used for over thirty years.

How does Lignocaine work?

Lignocaine works in chronic pain to stabilise pain nerves; it does this by temporarily blocking a chemical called sodium from initiating and sending nerve impulses. Lignocaine also has anti-inflammatory effects.

How is the infusion performed?

You will be admitted to hospital as a day patient and you will be required to fast for six hours prior to the infusion. An ECG will be done on the day prior to the infusion being commenced and your doctor will insert the intravenous cannula through which the infusion will be administered. During the infusion you will have frequent, regular observations taken by the nursing staff including monitoring of your heart rate, blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and pain score. Your doctor will also be present for the duration of the infusion and for the immediate period following the infusion. The nursing staff and your doctor will also be constantly monitoring you for any potential side effects of the Lignocaine.

What are the risks and side effects?

All medical procedures are associated with risks. The most common symptoms of Lignocaine Infusion are side effects to the drug. These may include metallic taste, tinnitus, dizziness/light headedness, numbing and/or tingling around the lips, twitching, seizures and abnormal heart rhythms. Allergic reactions are rare. Side effects are managed by reducing the dose or stopping the infusion temporarily and side effects will usually then stop. Everyone has a different tolerance to Lignocaine. In general Lignocaine is mostly well tolerated, and we know the usual safe dose to give you.

How long does the infusion take?

Typically, the Lignocaine will be infused over thirty minutes. Your intravenous cannula and fluid line will then remain in place for a further thirty minutes, and the nursing staff will continue to observe you for any side effects and take regular observations. During this time, you will be offered a light refreshment.

Following the infusion

You will need someone to take you home and stay with you overnight. You should be able to resume normal activity and return to work after twenty-four hours. Do not undertake any strenuous exercise/activity until after the first twenty-four hours post procedure.

Expected Outcomes

The effectiveness of a Lignocaine Infusion does depend on the condition being treated and individual differences. The expected outcome varies from patient to patient. If beneficial, your doctor will discuss with you the possibility of repeating the infusion.

Statement of Acknowledgement

I, ..., confirm that I have read the information on Lignocaine provided in this form.

Email address: .....

..../...../.....

E-Signature *Date*