

### Is there anything I should or should not do?

- Eat a light meal before coming to the hospital. A drink and some toast for example.
- It is very important for you to tell us if you have had recent heart, liver or kidney problems, irregular heartbeats, abnormal ECG, seizure disorders or reactions to local anaesthetic in the past.
- You can usually begin normal activities the following day
- Take all your medications as usual
- Keep your follow-up appointment and a pain log over the days and weeks following the 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 that you get
- Some patients do not feel that the infusion reduced their pain level or enabled them to do more activities, don't be discouraged. Talk with the pain team for other alternatives.

You will follow up with the pain team to assess how beneficial the treatment has been and if you want to repeat the infusion



Please contact the pain service if you are worried about your child at any stage.

Secretary: Melanie Kennedy

Nurse:.....

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

- 01 409 6100 (hospital switchboard)
- 01 01409 6482 Melanie Kennedy (secretary)
- 01 409 6933 (to leave a message for the pain nurses)

**Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.**

Developed by Pain Service

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### Information for children & Parents

## Intravenous Lidocaine Infusion



Children's Hospital Ireland at Crumlin

Phone: 01 409 6100

## What is a Lidocaine Intravenous Infusion?

A Lidocaine infusion is when a local anaesthetic is given by a pump, over a number of hours, 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?

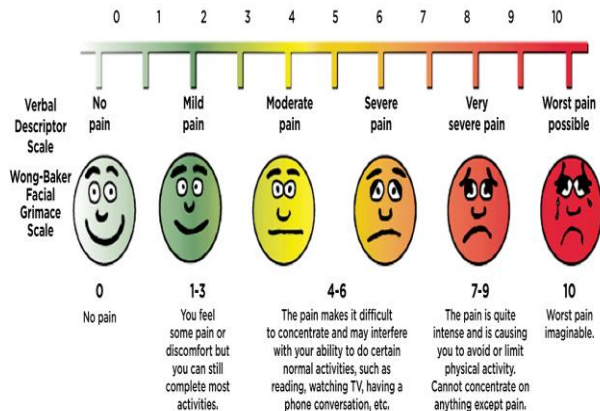
It works by decreasing both spontaneous nerve activity and the spread of pain signals in nerve fibres that send pain messages to the brain. In other words it quietsens the misbehaving nerves, thereby reducing the pain.

## What does the infusion involve?

This treatment requires you to attend day unit in the morning where you will meet your doctor. You will stay on the ward for the whole session. A cannula (a small plastic tube) will be inserted into a vein. 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 also be asked about any other symptoms you may have such as feeling sick, dizziness etc.

You will be allowed home about an hour after the infusion stops once we are confident that you are well and any side effects have stopped.

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



## 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, nausea or vomiting, headaches, drowsiness, tingling or numbness around your mouth, metallic taste, and garbled speech, disturbed vision, ringing in your ears or a tremor. 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 are rare events.

## Benefits

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



## Alternatives

Your pain specialist will have discussed alternatives with you during your consultation. Options might have included different medicines, injections or physical therapies.

However, as every patient is unique, specific alternatives cannot be given on an information leaflet like this as not all treatments are suitable for everyone.