IV Lidocaine Infusions

What Is a Lidocaine Infusion?
Lidocaine is a common anesthetic (pain reliever). The medicine is delivered by intravenous (IV) infusion. It works by blocking pain receptors in the brain and spinal cord. This may help decrease chronic pain, especially for patients with neuropathic pain.

Depending on the specific cause of the pain some patients report immediate, temporary relief of pain during the lidocaine infusion. Other patients report sustained relief for one to four weeks after the infusion. If you notice an improvement in your pain during the infusion, please take note as to how long the beneficial effects of the medication last and report this to your provider at the time of your next scheduled office visit.

Description:
Intravenous (IV) Lidocaine infusions involve the slow release of local anesthetic into the bloodstream. This treatment is done in-clinic, under the constant monitor of nurses and/or doctors. It can be useful in the treatment of certain pain disorders, where other more conventional treatments have failed.

How it works:
Lidocaine is a local anesthetic that produces a “numbing” effect on areas of the body where it is administered. In the case of infusions, the lidocaine is released in such a way that it affects the whole body, allowing heightened pain response systems to become less sensitive.

Conditions Treated:
A number of conditions may be treated using IV lidocaine infusion including chronic regional pain syndrome, neuralgia (nerve pain), post herpetic pain, chronic diabetic neuropathy, fibromyalgia, vascular headaches, centralized pain, or widespread pain.

What Happens During a Lidocaine Infusion?
A provider will see you. The provider will explain the procedure in detail, including possible complications and side effects. They will also answer any other questions you may have.

An intravenous (IV) line will be placed in a vein in your arm before the procedure. You will be started on the lidocaine. This IV will run for approximately 30 minutes. Your pain and side effects including blood pressure and oxygen level will be monitored every 5 minutes. You will be asked about pain and side effects very frequently. Once you achieve pain control, have any side effects, or complete the infusion, the infusion will be stopped.

Lidocaine infusions can be repeated several times with minimal side effects. You will be evaluated for potential repeat infusions.

What Happens After the Infusion?
You will be in a room for observation for fifteen minutes following the procedure, where medical staff will check your blood pressure and pulse. You will be asked about your pain. Medical staff will review your discharge instructions with you and answer any questions you may have. Most people report at least 50 percent improvement in their pain immediately.

Keep track of your pain for the next three to four weeks to see how long the lidocaine infusion lasts. Someone must drive you home following the first time you have a lidocaine infusion.