

Medication Information Sheet



Lidocaine patch

brands: Lidoderm

Medications are only ONE part of a successful treatment plan. They are appropriate when they provide benefit, improve function and have either no or mild, manageable side effects. Importantly, medications (even if natural) are chemical substances not expected in the body, and as such have side effects. Some of the side effects might be unknown. The use of medications/drugs for any purpose requires patient consent. This practice does NOT require a patient to use any medication.

Information & potential benefits

Lidocaine is a local anesthetic that can be used in a variety of ways. It is used in injectable form for pain relief during minor surgical procedures. It can be applied to the skin in the form of skins, gels and patches. It blocks pain by inhibiting the chemicals in the nerve so they cannot transmit pain impulses. The lidocaine patch is currently FDA approved for the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia (pain following a shingles outbreak). It may be used off label for treatment of other pain conditions.

Potential risks and side effects

During or immediately after treatment with a lidocaine patch, the skin at the site of application may develop blisters, bruising, burning sensation, lightening of the skin, dermatitis, discoloration, swelling, redness, irritation or may be the feeling of abnormal sensation. These reactions are generally mild and transient, resolving by themselves within a few minutes to hours. Some people may have an allergy to the products that make the patches stick; others may have a true allergic reaction to the lidocaine. Rarely a severe allergic reaction can occur. Stop using the patch and seek medical attention if you experience swelling of the lips or tongue, trouble breathing or widespread rash with more itching.

Dosing information

The patches are 5mg. One to three patches can be applied at one time depending on the size of the affected area. Leave the patch on for 12 hours within a 24 hour period. **The potential exists for a small child or a pet to suffer serious adverse reactions from chewing or ingesting a new or used lidocaine patch, although the risk with this formulation has not been evaluated. It is important for patients to store and dispose of lidocaine patches out of the reach of children and pets.**

Important information

Disclaimer: This is for informational purposes only. This does not replace the instructions you received from your provider, does not constitute initiation of medical treatment or establishment of a patient-physician relationship, does not constitute any form of recommendation, prescription or medical advice, and does not imply that the medication is appropriate or FDA approved for any condition. This information is not a complete listing of instructions, doses, uses or side effects. If this was prescribed to you, you must review this information with your pharmacist and prescriber before starting the medication. Any medication may interfere with the ability to drive, concentrate or operate machinery; patients must be responsible for their own behavior and should not engage in any dangerous activity if there is any question of impairment. All medications have side effects and drug interactions, some serious, some fatal. Let all of your practitioners and pharmacists know about every substance used. Alcohol, herbals or illegal drugs are not considered safe with these medications. Assume no medication is safe during pregnancy or while breast feeding. The medication may interfere with birth control. Almost any medication can cause sleepiness, insomnia, dizziness, confusion, hallucinations, anxiety, panic, constipation or diarrhea, headache, chest pain and nausea or vomiting, among others. Most medications should NOT be stopped suddenly because of the risk of withdrawal.