



## **Instructions for subcutaneous Lidocaine infusions**

You have received an infusion device or 'infusor' containing your prescribed dose of lidocaine. The infusor will empty itself by infusing the medication through the needle under your skin. The Lidocaine will slowly be absorbed. Your doctor or nurse will tell you how long the infusion is expected to take (approximately 20 hours).

The dose of lidocaine has been chosen to produce maximum improvement of pain and minimum side effects.

### **What to do as the lidocaine is infused and for the rest of the day after the infusion has completed:**

1. Do not drive or plan any strenuous activity for 24 hours.
2. Do not take extra sedative medication or alcohol for 24 hours.

### **What to do if you experience side effects:**

1. **Mild:** slight drowsiness or slight metallic taste: **continue infusion.**
2. **Moderate:** marked sleepiness, strong metallic taste, dizziness, ringing in the ears, numbness around mouth and tongue: **stop infusion by clamping the SC line and call the clinic.**
3. **Severe:** if moderate symptoms continue, or worsen, even after the infusion has been stopped for 45 minutes: **Call Entheomed (236-795-2881) or go to the Emerg Dept.**

It is rare for patients to experience anything other than mild symptoms.

### **Care of the infusor:**

The infusor may be placed in any convenient place where there is no tension on the tubing. A shirt pocket or waist pocket works well.

Infusion rate is increased if the pump is squeezed, warmed (as in warm clothing / bedding) or if it's higher than the SC catheter site. Thus, do not apply pressure to the pump, wrap the pump in clothing or bedding, or put on a surface that's significantly higher than the infusion site please.

When the inner yellow reservoir appears straight, it is empty. The time to empty may differ from the expected time. It may take up to 2 hours more, or take 2 hours less than what you were expecting. Emptying *slightly* faster than expected is not a problem unless you have side-effects. If emptying is much faster than expected, or if you encounter any untoward symptoms, clamp the infusion line for an hour. If emptying is slower than expected, check the tubing for kinks.

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