

Lidocaine 5% medicated plasters - What is your experience?

May – July 2009

Number of responses = 62

1) Have you prescribed lidocaine 5% medicated plasters in palliative care? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes	50	81%
No	1	2%
No, but my patient was prescribed them by someone else	11	18%

2) In what circumstances have you prescribed lidocaine 5% medicated plasters?

The most common indications specified were pain in mesothelioma, chest wall pain linked to breast cancer, lung cancer or infiltration and neuropathic pain. Other indications were post herpetic neuralgia (licensed indication) and some isolated reports of use in pathological fracture, post surgical pain/wound pain/scar pain.

3) Generally, how many lidocaine 5% medicated plasters do you need to use on a patient at one time? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Less than half a plaster	2	3%
Half a plaster	1	2%
1 plaster	40	65%
2 plasters	15	24%
3 plasters	2	3%
4 plasters	0	0%
More than 4 plasters	0	0%

4) Generally, for how long do you advise patients to apply the plasters? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Leave them on continually	5	8%
Remove them at night	14	23%
Remove them for the full recommended rest period of 12h	37	60%
Other (please explain in the comments section below)	5	8%

5) Generally, in your experience, how effective are lidocaine 5% medicated plasters? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Of definite benefit	25	40%
Of possible benefit	32	52%
Of minimal or no benefit	3	5%

6) Have any of your patients experienced any of the following local undesirable effects? (many_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of voters</i>
Application site burning	5	8
Application site dermatitis	4	6
Application site erythema	7	11
Application site pruritus	1	2
Application site vesicles	1	2
Other (please specify in comments section below)	1	2
No	45	73

7) Have any of your patients experienced any of the following systemic undesirable effects? (many_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of voters</i>
Arrhythmia	0	0
Bradycardia	0	0
Dizziness	0	0
Drowsiness	2	3
Mydriasis	0	0
Seizures	0	0
Shock	0	0
Vomiting	0	0
Other (please specify in comments section below)	0	0
No	57	92

8) Please add any further comments (good or bad) on your experience with lidocaine 5% medicated plasters.

On the positive side, members generally reported that the patches are well tolerated and patients like them, particularly the fact that they do not add to the tablet burden and are also soothing to apply. Prescribers also appreciate having another pain option strategy, particularly in the difficult treatment of pain in mesothelioma. However, others reported that the effect seems variable or unpredictable and the cost is high. There was some scepticism that the benefit was psychological.