

## Lidocaine 5% medicated plasters – What is your experience?

July – August 2012

Number of responses = 35

1) Have you prescribed or advised the use of lidocaine 5% medicated plasters in palliative care? (one\_of)

| answer   | votes | % of vote |
|--|-------|-----------|
| Yes  | 33    | 94%       |
| No (please explain in the comments section below if there is a specific reason for this) | 2     | 6%        |

2) In what circumstances have you prescribed or advised the use of lidocaine 5% medicated plasters? (freetext)

Generally members reported that they used lidocaine plasters for neuropathic pain in relation to many diagnoses, but particularly chest wall pain from mesothelioma, spinal pain or bone metastasis. A few reported use in allodynia and post-herpetic 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 1 plaster  | 0     | 0%        |
| 1 plaster            | 25    | 71%       |
| 2 plasters           | 10    | 29%       |
| 3 plasters           | 0     | 0%        |
| 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                               | 2     | 6%        |
| Remove them at night                                    | 4     | 11%       |
| Remove them for the full recommended rest period of 12h | 29    | 83%       |
| Other (please explain in the comments section below)    | 0     | 0%        |

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

| answer                   | votes | % of vote |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Of definite benefit      | 11    | 31%       |
| Of possible benefit      | 19    | 54%       |
| Of minimal or no benefit | 5     | 14%       |

6) Generally, in your experience, what proportion of patients derives definite benefit from lidocaine 5% medicated plasters? (one\_of)

| answer | votes | % of vote |
|--------|-------|-----------|
| 100%   | 2     | 6%        |
| 75%    | 9     | 26%       |

|     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| 66% | 4 | 11% |
| 50% | 4 | 11% |
| 33% | 4 | 11% |
| 25% | 8 | 23% |
| 0%  | 3 | 9%  |

7) Generally, have you changed your recent practice in light of your experience? (one\_of)

| <i>answer</i>                                   | <i>votes</i> | <i>% of vote</i> |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| No – I am using the plasters the same as before | 14           | 40%              |
| Yes – I am using the plasters more than before  | 12           | 34%              |
| Yes – I am using the plasters less than before  | 8            | 23%              |

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

There were only a few comments. On the positive side, members reported that the plasters seem generally well tolerated, and may be useful in some patients. On the negative side they reported the significant cost and that adherence of the plasters can be a problem. Some members stated that they are unconvinced of the benefit, and that perhaps a protective covering of the painful site would be as effective.

The results of the same survey taken in 2009 are available on the [www.palliativedrugs.com](http://www.palliativedrugs.com) latest additions archive under [September 2009](#) for comparison.