

Lidoderm (lidocaine) basics

Treats nerve pain. Lidoderm (lidocaine) works well to treat nerve pain that is localized to a small area, but its topical application may cause minor skin irritation.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Lidoderm (lidocaine) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Dizziness					
Drowsiness					
Burning or tingling sensation					
Numbness					
Nervousness					
Twitching					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Always wash your hands after each application. Avoid touching your eyes until after you have washed your hands.
- Apply the patch to unbroken skin.
- Leave the patch on for up to 12 hours during a 24 hour period.
- You may cut the patch to fit according to the area of the skin.
- Don't place any tight wraps or heating pads over the patch.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Overdose

Lidoderm (lidocaine) can build up in the body and slow breathing or cause seizures and death. Do not leave the patch on the skin for longer than 12 hours or use on very large areas. The elderly may be more sensitive to overdose. Talk to your doctor about possible changes in your dose.

Accidental poisoning

Store Lidoderm (lidocaine) away from children and pets. Used patches have enough medicine to cause serious illness if chewed or swallowed. Remove any used patch by folding onto itself so the medication is on the inside. Call 911 or your doctor or vet right away if you suspect a child or pet has chewed or eaten Lidoderm (lidocaine).

Eye irritation

Wash your hands right away after applying Lidoderm (lidocaine). If you accidentally touch your eyes before washing your hands, flush your eye completely with water or saline. If the pain or numbness continues, make sure you tell your doctor and have it checked right away.