Lidocaine

Description

Lidocaine (lidocaine injection)

Background
Lidocaine is a local anesthetic and a class 1b antiarrhythmic agent. It acts by suppressing electrical conduction across cell membranes, resulting in its cardiac and anesthetic effects. Lidocaine is FDA-approved for use as a local or regional anesthetic administered by infiltration, nerve block, epidural, or spinal techniques. Lidocaine is also used for acute ventricular arrhythmias and has shown to be effective in the treatment of refractory status epilepticus as an off-label indication (1-3).

Other off-label uses of lidocaine include intractable cough, prophylaxis of fentanyl-associated cough, hiccups, and chronic (including neuropathic) pain (2).

Regulatory Status
FDA-Approved Indication: Lidocaine hydrochloride injection is indicated for production of local or regional anesthesia by infiltration techniques such as percutaneous injection and intravenous regional anesthesia by peripheral nerve block techniques such as brachial plexus and intercostal and by central neural techniques such as lumbar and caudal epidural blocks, when the accepted procedures for these techniques as described in standard textbooks are observed (1).

Lidocaine is also used for ventricular arrhythmias and status epilepticus (2-3).

Related policies
Lidocaine Patches, Lidocaine Powder, Lidocaine Topical
This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Lidocaine injection may be considered medically necessary for use as a local and regional anesthesia administered by infiltration, nerve block, epidural, or spinal techniques, for the treatment of acute ventricular arrhythmias, or for use in refractory status epilepticus.

Lidocaine injection may be considered investigational for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Diagnoses

Patient must have ONE of the following:

1. Acute ventricular arrhythmia occurring as a result of cardiac manipulation or myocardial infarction
2. Local and regional anesthesia by infiltration, nerve block, epidural, or spinal techniques
3. Refractory status epilepticus

Prior – Approval Renewal Requirements

Same as above

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance
Quantity 5mg/ml X 50ml X 2 vials OR equivalent of other available concentrations/volumes

Prior - Approval Limits
Duration 12 months

Prior – Approval Renewal Limits
Duration 12 months

Rationale
Summary
Lidocaine is a local anesthetic that is also used as a class 1b antiarrhythmic agent. It is FDA-approved for use in ventricular arrhythmias and as a local or regional anesthetic administered by infiltration, nerve block, epidural, or spinal techniques. Lidocaine is also used for ventricular arrhythmias and status epilepticus (1-3).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost effective use of Lidocaine while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

Policy History

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<td>December 2011</td>
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Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on December 2, 2016 and is effective on January 1, 2017.

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