***Lidocaine Injection Shortage:***

Multiple forms of Lidocaine including premix bags used for continuous drips, vials for local anesthesia, and the code blue emergency syringes are all currently on shortage. The discontinuation of certain product strengths from manufacturers as well as increased demand for the product has led to national shortages.

This shortage has led to restriction of various injectable lidocaine products at our hospital. The lidocaine premix for infusion and emergency IV syringes are saved for the Emergency Crash Carts. Fortunately, usage of lidocaine drips and the emergency syringes is extremely low and if needed, usage of IV lidocaine is typically given in the emergency code blue setting for life threatening ventricular arrhythmias.

The use of lidocaine as an anesthetic for local infiltration during medical procedures is much more common. Lidocaine is used as an anesthetic in various procedures such as suture repairs, biopsies, placement of central lines, ports and catheters in the hospital to name a few. In an effort to conserve lidocaine injection supply, nursing administration along with the pharmacy therapeutics committee have decided to temporarily use topical EMLA cream (Lidocaine2.5% and prilocaine 2.5%) instead of injectable lidocaine for minor procedures such as peripheral line placement and venipuncture if an anesthetic is needed. For minor dermal procedures (e.g. IV cannulation, port access, or venipuncture), apply a thick layer of cream at the intended skin puncture site (adult dose= 2.5 grams=1/2 of the 5-gram tube) and cover with an occlusive dressing for at least 15- 30 minutes. For optimal effects, cover for 60 minutes before puncture. Using topical EMLA instead for minor IV cannulation procedures will help save our injectable lidocaine for procedural areas such as the operating room, cath lab, radiology, and emergency room where it is necessary for more invasive procedures. The EMR order sets have been changed to use EMLA preferentially over injectable lidocaine for most of the IV start orders where applicable.

Use of lidocaine for Central line placement (e.g. PICC lines, TLC IJ) may be continued. Fortunately, many central kits include injectable lidocaine currently, although some are not being packaged with lidocaine injection anymore because of the shortage. In the latter case, lidocaine injectable may be ordered in EMR and used for placement of a central line.

Pharmacy is still receiving intermittent supply of injectable lidocaine and the estimated time for better supply is projected for October 2018, although there are no guarantees.

May I help you?

 

 **DRUG SHORTAGES**

 **IV HYDROMORPHONE**

 **IV MORPHINE**

 **IV FENTANYL**

 **IV Potassium Chloride**

 **TPN**

 **DOBUTAMINE**

 **LIDOCAINE- all injectable**

 **forms**

 **Calcium Gluconate IV**

 **Magnesium Sulfate IV**

 **KCentra**

 **FLUORESCEIN strips**

 **IV Ondansetron**

 **Bupivacaine**

 **AKWA tears**

 **Flumazenil**

 **For more information**

 **contact:**

 www.ashp.org/DrugShortages