

Lidocaine

What is lidocaine topical?

Lidocaine is a local anesthetic (numbing medication). There are many brands and forms of lidocaine available.

Lidocaine topical (for use on the skin) is used to reduce pain or discomfort caused by skin irritations such as sunburn, insect bites, poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, and minor cuts, scratches, or burns. Lidocaine topical is also used to treat rectal discomfort caused by hemorrhoids.

Lidocaine topical may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Warnings

An overdose of numbing medicine can cause fatal side effects if too much of the medicine is absorbed through your skin.

Do not use large amounts of lidocaine topical, or cover treated skin areas with a bandage or plastic wrap without medical advice.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use lidocaine topical if you are allergic to any type of numbing medicine.

Fatal overdoses have occurred when numbing medicines were used without the advice of a medical doctor (such as during a cosmetic procedure like laser hair removal). However, overdose has also occurred in women treated with a numbing medicine before having a mammography.

Be aware that many cosmetic procedures are performed without a medical doctor present.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- liver disease; or
- if you take a heart rhythm medicine.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

If you apply lidocaine topical to your chest, avoid areas that may come into contact with the baby's mouth.

How should I use lidocaine topical?

Use lidocaine topical exactly as directed on the label, or as it has been prescribed by your doctor. Do not apply this medicine in larger amounts than recommended.

Improper use of lidocaine topical may result in death.

Lidocaine topical comes in many different forms (gel, spray, cream, lotion, ointment, liquid, skin patch).

Do not take by mouth. Topical medicine is for use only on the skin. **If this medicine gets in your eyes, nose, mouth, rectum, or vagina, rinse with water.**

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand these instructions.

Use the smallest amount of medicine needed to numb the skin or relieve pain. Your body may absorb too much of this medicine if you use too much, if you apply it over large skin areas, or if you apply heat, bandages, or plastic wrap to treated skin areas. Skin that is cut or irritated may also absorb more topical medication than healthy skin.

Do not apply this medicine to swollen skin areas or deep puncture wounds. Avoid using the medicine on skin that is raw or blistered, such as a severe burn or abrasion.

Do not cover treated skin unless your doctor has told you to.

Lidocaine topical may be applied with your finger tips or a cotton swab.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Keep both used and unused lidocaine topical skin patches out of the reach of children or pets.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since lidocaine topical is used when needed, you may not be on a dosing schedule. Skip any missed dose if it's almost time for your next dose. Do not use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of numbing medicine can cause fatal side effects if too much of the medicine is absorbed through your skin and into your blood.**

Overdose symptoms may include uneven heartbeats, seizure (convulsions), slowed breathing, coma, or respiratory failure (breathing stops).

Lidocaine applied to the skin is not likely to cause an overdose unless you apply more than the recommended dose.

What should I avoid while using lidocaine topical?

Avoid accidentally injuring treated skin areas while they are numb. Avoid coming into contact with very hot or very cold surfaces.

Lidocaine topical side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe burning, stinging, or irritation where the medicine was applied;
- swelling or redness;
- sudden dizziness or drowsiness after medicine is applied;
- confusion, blurred vision, ringing in your ears; or
- unusual sensations of temperature.

Common side effects include:

- mild irritation where the medication is applied; or
- numbness in places where the medicine is accidentally applied.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What other drugs will affect lidocaine topical?

Medicine used on the skin is not likely to be affected by other drugs you use. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.