PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Lidocaine (Systemic

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US

Lidomark 1/5 [DSC]; Lidomark 2/5 [DSC]; Xylocaine; Xylocaine MPF +RFID; Xylocaine-MPF; Xylocaine-MPF +RFID

Brand Names: Canada

Xylocaine; Xylocaine Plain; Xylocard

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to numb an area before a procedure.
- It is used to treat certain types of abnormal heartbeats.
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

All products:

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.

Injection (if given in the vein):

- If your child has any of these health problems: Heart block, Stokes-Adams syndrome, or Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome.

Injection (if given into the spine):

- If your child has any of these health problems: Heart block, very bad bleeding, or very bad infection.
- If your child has an infection where the shot will be given.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the

dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

All products:

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- A severe blood problem called methemoglobinemia has happened with drugs like this one. The risk may be raised in people who have glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency, heart problems, or lung problems. The risk may also be raised while taking certain other drugs and in infants younger than 6 months of age. Tell your child's doctor if your child has ever had methemoglobinemia.
- If your child is allergic to sulfites, talk with your child's doctor. Some products have sulfites in them.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.

If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is pregnant, becomes pregnant, or is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to

talk about the benefits and risks to your child and the baby.

Injection (if given in the vein):

- Have your child's blood work checked and an ECG (to see how your child's heart beats) as you have been told by the doctor.

Numbing of an area:

- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness until the effects of this drug wear off and your child feels fully awake. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles.
- If you are going home before the numbness wears off, have your child protect the treated area from injury until your child can feel it again.

Injection (if given into the spine):

- This drug may cause short-term loss of feeling and motor activity in the lower half of your child's body. Do not let your child try to get out of bed or do other tasks or actions until feeling and motor activity have returned to normal.

Mouth:

- Do not let your child eat while their mouth feels numb. Biting of the tongue could happen.

Zingo™:

- You may hear a sound like a popping balloon when this drug is used. This is normal.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child's doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

All products:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of methemoglobinemia like a blue or gray color of the lips, nails, or skin; a heartbeat that does not feel normal; seizures; severe dizziness or passing out; severe

headache; feeling very sleepy; feeling tired or weak; or shortness of breath. This effect is rare but may be deadly if it happens.

Zingo™:

- Burning.
- Bruising.
- Bleeding where the shot is given.

All other products:

- Signs of too much acid in the blood (acidosis) like confusion; fast breathing; fast heartbeat; a heartbeat that does not feel normal; very bad stomach pain, upset stomach, or throwing up; feeling very sleepy; shortness of breath; or feeling very tired or weak.
- Trouble breathing, slow breathing, or shallow breathing.
- Feeling lightheaded, sleepy, confused, or having blurred eyesight.
- Slow heartbeat.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Trouble speaking.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Restlessness.

- Anxiety.
- Change in eyesight.
- Ringing in ears.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Very bad headache.
- Twitching.
- Shakiness.
- Seizures.
- Feeling hot or cold.
- Metallic taste.
- Chest pain.
- Mood changes.

Injection (if given into the spine):

- Not able to move.
- Not able to control stools or urine.
- Trouble passing urine.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- Not able to get or keep an erection.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

Zingo™:

- Pinpoint red spots on the skin.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

Injection (if given in the vein):

- It is given into a vein for a period of time.

Numbing of an area:

- It is given as a shot.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Call your child's doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child's doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please

talk with your child's doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim

any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

Last Reviewed Date
2024-12-11

Copyright
© 2026 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All rights reserved.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

Lidocaine (Systemic - Last updated on December 12, 2022
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center