

Iontophoresis

Patient information



Iontophoresis is a technique that is mainly used for nerve pain. Medication is administered through the skin (transdermally) using electricity. The goal of the treatment is to bring the medicine as close to the affected area as possible, in order to reduce pain and improve blood flow. Depending on your situation, a combination of different medicines may be used.

Before the treatment

You do not need to prepare for an iontophoresis treatment. Do not use body lotion or body cream on the affected area. The number of treatments that can take place depends on the medication used. It could be once a week for several weeks in a row. Or once and repeated after three months.

Please contact your doctor before the treatment if any of the following points apply to you:

- you might be pregnant
- you are allergic or hypersensitive to medicines or plasters
- you have a pacemaker or ICD
- you have a nickel allergy

The treatment takes place at our pain management department. At the time of your appointment we invite you to the treatment room. Your supervisor may wait in the waiting area.

The treatment

You lie down on a bed or take a seat in a chair. First your skin is degreased with alcohol. Then the medication is sprayed onto a little cup (a plaster with a thin sponge). At a distance of 10 centimeters from the cup, a plaster is placed to which the electrodes are attached. Then the device is turned on. The treatment is not painful, but you might experience a stinging or tickling sensation. During the treatment the settings of the device can be adjusted.

Duration of the treatment

The treatment takes about 30 minutes. Our advice is to take it easy for the rest of the day.

After the treatment

After the treatment you are allowed to go home as soon as you feel well. Please note that you are not always allowed to participate in traffic independently after the treatment. Arrange for someone to pick you up and bring you home safely if:

- You have been treated with the drug S-ketamine. This drug can make you feel sleepy and drowsy.
- You have had an iontophoresis treatment with a drug other than S-ketamine for the first time. If this is not your first treatment, please discuss with your doctor if you are able to go home independently.

You can notice a positive effect of the treatment already after a few weeks. We evaluate the treatment after 8 weeks. For this we will schedule a telephone appointment with you.

Possible complications and adverse effects

An iontophoresis treatment is a safe treatment and usually proceeds without complications. The pain specialist will discuss with you whether the treatment may entail any risks in your case.

After an iontophoresis treatment you may suffer from side effects which are usually mild:

- Redness or a rash on your skin (where the electrodes were placed)
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Drowsiness
- Headache
- Dry mouth or dry nasal mucosa
- Blurred vision

These symptoms are temporary and nothing to worry about.

Resuscitation

All patients at DC Klinieken are resuscitated in an emergency situation. Have you signed a DNR form or discussed with your doctor that you do not want to be resuscitated? Then it is important to inform us of this.

Insurance coverage

DC Klinieken has contracts with all health insurance providers. This means that practically all of the care is reimbursed. Just like the care you receive in the hospital. You will first need a referral from your GP or specialist. Remember to take into account your insurance excess. For more information about reimbursement and any exceptions: www.dcklinieken.nl/vergoedingen.

Questions

For more information and answers to FAQ, please visit www.dcklinieken.nl/contact or contact our Service and Information Centre on +31 (0)88 0100 900.

Emergency after visit to DC Klinieken

In case of emergency, call: +31 (0) 88 0100 998.

Emergency after visit to DC Klinieken Dokkum

In case of an emergency, call:

- After pain management or gastrointestinal examination: +31 (0) 88 0100 960
- After radiology: +31 (0) 88 0100 985

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