

**PD-35. LIDOCAINE PATCH 5% TREATS ALL NEUROPATHIC PAIN QUALITIES: RESULTS OF A RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL USING THE NEUROPATHIC PAIN SCALE**

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The purpose of this study was to assess the effect of the lidocaine patch 5% (Lidoderm®), a targeted peripheral analgesic, on distinct neuropathic pain qualities. The lidocaine patch, the only Food and Drug Administration-approved drug for the treatment of postherpetic neuralgia, relieves neuropathic pain by reducing peripheral nociceptive impulse generation. Data from a vehicle-controlled trial were analyzed using the Neuropathic Pain Scale (NPS). This validated instrument assesses 10 items, including 8 specific qualities of neuropathic pain (“sharp,” “hot,” “dull,” “cold,” “skin sensitivity,” “itchy,” “deep pain,” and “surface pain”) and global “pain intensity” and “unpleasantness,” all rated on a 0-10 numeric scale. The NPS was administered to all 150 subjects during a randomized, vehicle-controlled, clinical trial at baseline and at the end of the 3-week treatment period. Only patients with moderate-to-severe pain at baseline (pain intensity  $\geq 4/10$  in at least 6 of the 10 NPS items) were included in the analyses. In all, 96 patients met these criteria and were included in the analyses. The results demonstrated the statistical superiority of the lidocaine patch compared with the vehicle patch as measured by: “NPS 10 Score,” a sum score including all 10 numeric NPS items ( $P = .043$ ); “NPS 8 Score,” a standardized average score of all 8 pain descriptors excluding unpleasantness and global intensity ( $P = .042$ ); “NPS NA Score,” a standardized average score of all 8 nonallodynic items ( $P = .022$ ); and “NPS 4 Score,” a standardized average score of the pain qualities not thought to be primarily related to peripheral dermal pathophysiologic events, ie, sharp, hot, dull, and deep pains ( $P = .013$ ). The lidocaine patch was superior to the vehicle patch in reducing the intensity of all common neuropathic pain qualities. Thus, these data suggest that the lidocaine patch 5% may be effective in neuropathic pain states when allodynia may not be a prominent feature. This study also further validates the NPS as a sensitive measure of treatment effects in randomized clinical trials.