Effectiveness and satisfaction of lignocaine 5% (Versatis®) medicated plaster in patients with neuropathic pain

Simon Shah – Senior Clinical Pharmacist ¹
Anthony Hall – Advanced Clinical Pharmacist ¹,²
Susan Young – Clinical Nurse Consultant ¹

1. Interdisciplinary Persistent Pain Centre, Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, Queensland, Australia
2. School of Pharmacy, Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus, Queensland, Australia

Introduction
Lignocaine 5% (Versatis®) medicated plaster is a relatively new product available in Australia which is licensed for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (postherpetic neuralgia).¹ There have been various small scale studies investigating the use of this product in other neuropathic pain conditions.²,³ We used the lignocaine 5% plaster in a variety of neuropathic pain conditions including post-herpetic neuralgia and complex regional pain syndrome. Some of the patients were also being treated with other neuropathic pain medications such as gabapentin and a number of patients had trialled various medications previously for neuropathic pain which had been discontinued due to lack of efficacy.

Methods
Sixteen patients were asked to complete a Brief Pain Inventory Short Form (BPI) and the Neuropathic Pain Scale (NPS) pre-treatment with the medicated plaster. Sixteen patients were issued between 1-3 plasters depending on size of area of pain and advised to apply the patch(es) for 12 hours each day. Patients were reviewed at 1 month after initial plaster application and the BPI and NPS were completed again as well as a patient satisfaction survey. Paired T tests were conducted on the data and differences between baseline and review results were considered statistically significant with p ≤ 0.05.

Results

Patient Comments

‘Great for my pain’
‘Works for area covered, not anywhere else’
‘Very helpful, easy to apply, good relief’
‘Lower back pain - not as useful’

Conclusion
Lignocaine 5% (Versatis®) medicated plaster provides a useful option for patients with a variety of different poorly controlled neuropathic pain conditions. This small study has demonstrated that the medicated plaster can reduce pain and its impact on daily functions. It is a convenient dose form but does have potential to cause localised site reactions.

References