Oscar Clinical Guideline: Lidoderm (lidocaine) 5% Transdermal Patch (PG124, Ver. 3)

Lidoderm (lidocaine) 5% Transdermal Patch

Summary

Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch is the generic name for the U.S. Brand Name product Lidoderm, FDA-approved for relief of pain associated with post-herpetic neuralgia. The main ingredient in the medication is lidocaine, which causes a loss of feeling in the area around where the patch is applied. It helps treat pain, including nerve pain.

Definitions

"**Post-herpetic Neuralgia**" is a very bad pain that develops after a shingles infection (a condition where the body has painful rash on an area, typically the face or body torso).

"**Neuropathic Pain**" is pain in your body that is caused by an injury or disease to your central nervous system.

"**Chemotherapy**" is a treatment where drugs are used to kill cancer cells.

Medical Necessity Criteria for Initial Authorization

The Plan considers **Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch** medically necessary when the member has **ONE** of the following diagnoses:

1. pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia***; OR***
2. neuropathic pain (e.g., painful diabetic neuropathy, neuropathy associated with radiation treatment or chemotherapy).

If the above prior authorization criteria are met, Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch will be approved for 12 months.

Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary

Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch for any other indication is considered not medically necessary by the Plan, as it is deemed to be experimental, investigational, or unproven. This is primarily due to a lack of robust evidence in the form of large-scale, well-designed, randomized controlled trials to conclusively establish its safety and effectiveness for other conditions.

Appendix

Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch for non-specified indications

There is potential for the Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch to relieve symptoms in off-label conditions such as low back pain and osteoarthritis. However, these applications are not officially approved. Despite suggestive preliminary findings and anecdotal clinical evidence, we need more robust data to endorse widespread use for these conditions.

In the context of low back pain and osteoarthritis, the Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch has been utilized as additional or alternative therapy when conventional treatments have proven ineffective or have not been tolerated. Yet, the evidence for its efficacy in these scenarios remains sparse and is primarily based on small-scale studies or individual case reports.

It's important to consider that these conditions encompass a variety of underlying causes and patients often have diverse responses to treatments. Therefore, robust and consistent evidence is needed before

changing standard treatment protocols. To conclusively establish the effectiveness of the Lidocaine 5% Transdermal Patch for these and other off-label uses, more research, particularly in the form of large-scale randomized controlled trials, is required. Until this evidence becomes available, use for these indications is categorized as experimental or investigational.

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