

Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®)

Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster is a local anaesthetic producing a local, non-systemic analgesic effect.

It is licensed for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN)).

Prescribing Tips

- ✓ Versatis is licensed for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN) in adults **only**
- ✓ Alternative therapies (such as topical NSAID gels) should be used for muscle, soft tissue and rheumatic pain
- ✓ Treatment outcome should be re-evaluated after **2 – 4 weeks**
- ✓ If no response or if relieving effect is solely related to the protective properties of the plaster on the skin, **treatment MUST be discontinued**
- ✓ Reassess treatment at regular intervals to decide if there is a possibility to reduce the number of plasters needed or to extend the plaster-free interval
- ✓ Use with caution in severe cardiac, renal and hepatic impairment

Practice Points

- ✓ Apply to intact, dry, non-irritated skin (after healing of shingles)
- ✓ Each plaster must be worn for no longer than **12 hours**
- ✓ In total, not more than 3 plasters should be used at the same time
- ✓ Plaster should be cut to appropriate size with scissors **PRIOR** to removing the clear release liner

Information for Patients

The plaster must be applied directly to the painful site as the mode of action is local and non-systemic.
When a pack (containing 5 plasters) has been opened the plasters must be used within 14 days. Always re-seal the pack to prevent the plasters from drying out.

Product and price comparisons of treatments for post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN)

Lidocaine 5% plaster (Versatis®)

Apply 1 to 3 plasters daily (12 hours on, 12 hours off)

Price
€77.52 (30) -
€232.56 (90)

Capsaicin Cream 0.075% (Axsain®) 45g

Apply sparingly 3 to 4 times daily

Price
€17.52 (45g)

Product and price comparisons of potential topical treatments for non-post-herpetic neuralgia indications

Lidocaine 5% plaster (Versatis®)

UNLICENSED USE

Price
€77.52 (30)- €232.56 (90)

Difene Gel 1% (diclofenac) 50g

Indication & dose

Trauma of ligaments, tendon, muscle, joints & soft tissue. Apply 2 to 4 times daily.

Price per 100g

€2.36

Phorpain® 5% Gel (ibuprofen) 100g

Topical anti-inflammatory analgesic for back, rheumatic, muscular pain, strains & neuralgia. Apply sparingly up to 3 times daily.

€4.07

Fastum® 2.5% Gel (ketoprofen) 100g

Local relief of pain and inflammation associated with muscular, rheumatic and soft tissue. Apply 2 to 3 times daily

€6.69

Switching patients from 30 lidocaine 5% plasters to 45g capsaicin cream 0.075% could save €720 per patient per year

Switching patients from 30 lidocaine 5% plasters to 50g diclofenac 1% gel could save €912 per patient per year

Long term use of lidocaine 5% plaster (Versatis®) is only justified if there is a therapeutic benefit to the patient