

## Sample letter to hospital/surgery center pharmacy

Dear (Pharmacist)

I would like to have a new product, the "Tonsil Fire Extinguisher" filled with flavored 4% lidocaine, available for my tonsillectomy patients. I plan to use the device, which delivers a metered dose (0.12ml or 5mg lidocaine with each spray) that can be directed at the surgical site, to mitigate the severe pain associated with tonsillectomy. We would plan to use the spray in the OR, before the patient wakes from surgery, to ease the emergence from anesthesia, and then to use it in the recovery room as an alternative to narcotics. This should enable our patients to be discharged from the surgery center more quickly.

I believe that use of this device is a good alternative to viscous lidocaine, which has been used in the past for these patients. We would like to decrease the chance of lidocaine toxicity, especially since we plan on dosing this multiple times in the post op period. We would also like to decrease the chance of aspiration that could result from anesthetizing the throat.

Regarding lidocaine toxicity, it is generally held that a safe dose of lidocaine is 3mg/kg(1). Considering that the smallest patient we would plan to treat would be 40kg, a safe dose would be 120mg. 5ml of 2% viscous lidocaine would be a 100mg dose. 4 metered sprays from the Tonsil Fire Extinguisher would dispense 20mg. This make the tonsil Fire Extinguisher safer in terms of dosing.

Regarding potential for aspiration, giving viscous lidocaine to create numbness at the surgical site requires exposure through a swallow, which would necessarily result in anesthesia of the entire mouth and throat. The Tonsil Fire Extinguisher has a long sprayer arm the enables delivery of the drug directly to the tonsil fossa, leaving the mouth and lower throat with normal sensation.

There is precedent for using topical lidocaine over a prolonged period, both for tonsillectomy pain, and for chronic cough(2,3,4,5).

I believe that the very modest cost of the device to the institution will be compensated by decreased costs in terms of time spent in recovery, and in money saved on other drugs for pain control.

The device itself is a class 1 medical device, manufactured by Brillient LLC in Grayslake, Ill, in compliance with all FDA regulations. The devices are filled by and can be obtained from Edge Pharmacy of Colchester VT, a 503B outsourcing facility. They can be reached at 802-992-1178.

Thank you for your consideration.

## REFERENCES

1. S Derbyshire M J Donald, Lignocaine toxicity; a complication of local anaesthesia administered in the community *Emerg Med J* 2004;**21**:249-250
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3. Evidence for therapeutic uses of nebulized lidocaine in the treatment of intractable cough and asthma. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2013 Apr;47(4):578-85. doi: 10.1345/aph.1R573. Epub 2013 Apr 2
4. Nebulized lidocaine .....intractable cough. Truesdale K, Jurdi A. *Am J Hosp Palliat Care.* 2013 Sep; 30(6):587-9. Epub 2012 Sep 9.
5. Long-term safety of nebulized lidocaine for adults with difficult-to-control chronic cough: a case series. Lim KG, Rank MA, Hahn PY, Keogh KA, Morgenthaler TI, Olson EJ. *Chest.* 2013 Apr; 143(4):1060-5.