

The Authors' Reply

It is our experience in Bristol, UK, that the lidocaine 5% patch (Lidoderm®) is better tolerated if it is introduced gradually in the way we have described in our paper.^[1] I have heard this from a number of other clinicians and first heard it from our research fellow who had spent a year in Seattle, WA, USA, where this practice was routine.

The four references^[2-5] that were cited in our review refer to the use of lidocaine 5% patch in general and not the specific point regarding local irritation.

When we started to use the lidocaine 5% patch we went straight for 12-hour application and a number of patients were unhappy with the redness and discomfort that they experienced. Gradual introduction seems to prevent this.

Since publication of our paper, it has been shown that topical lidocaine is effective in nociceptor-deprived skin as well as for allodynic skin in postherpetic neuralgia.^[6]

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References

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