

Transdermal Fentanyl Patches

Combinations of morphine, lidocaine (lignocaine) and ketamine as constant rate infusions can provide very good analgesia for painful patients (but all 3 agents together should only be used in dogs –see note below regarding the use of lidocaine in cats).

Recipe:

Morphine: 60mg/500ml bag of fluid (i.e. 6ml of 10mg/ml morphine)

Lidocaine: 500mg/500ml bag of fluid (i.e. 25ml of 20mg/ml lidocaine)

Ketamine: 60mg/500ml bag of fluid (i.e. 0.6ml of 100mg/ml ketamine)

- Use 500ml bag of saline and remove a volume equal to the lidocaine volume before adding any of the fluids
- Dose is 1ml/kg/hour –i.e. just enter the patient weight into the infusion pump
- In dogs the dose can be increased up to 3ml/kg/hour without exceeding the dosage guidelines for any of the drugs
- Any combination of the three agents can be used in dogs at the above doses, although most commonly all three agents are used together
- Lidocaine should not be used in cats due to toxicity concerns so in cats only morphine/ketamine combinations should be used
- Morphine and lidocaine are light sensitive so if infusions are used for long periods the fluid bags should be covered (e.g. with VetWrap or similar) and opaque giving sets should be used
- Once made up, the solution is stable for 4 days
- Morphine, as a controlled drug, must be signed out to a single patient and so bags made up with morphine should not be used between patients
- When stopping the infusion, the infusion rate is typically reduced gradually rather than all at once –e.g. the rate may be reduced from 1ml/kg/h to 0.5ml/kg/h before stopping completely

