

# Ketamine to Treat Pain (in the Hospital)

## Ketamine

Ketamine is a medicine (anesthetic) used to reduce pain. You will receive the medicine through an intravenous (IV) line in your hand or arm. This is known as infusion therapy.

A member of the hospital pain team will check your pain levels during the infusion. You will also work with a doctor (known as a hospitalist) at the hospital.

The infusion will last for 3 to 5 days. You will be in the hospital up to 5 days.

## Before the Treatment

- When you meet with the doctor, tell him or her what medicines you take. Include all prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and natural medicines you take.
- Follow any medicine directions your doctor gives you.
- Arrange for someone to drive you home after the infusion. You will not be able to drive.
- Members of your health care team will hook you up to monitors to check your blood pressure, oxygen rate, pulse rate, temperature and breathing rate (your “vital signs”).

## After the Treatment

- You will be monitored for at least 1 hour after the infusion is done.

## Side Effects

Possible side effects include:

- changes in your heart rate or blood pressure
- nausea (feel like throwing up) or vomiting (throwing up)
- blurry vision
- feeling restless, being confused or having dream-like experiences.

Less common side effects include liver problems and problems urinating.

Tell your nurse if you have any strange feelings or symptoms. There are medicines he or she can give you to help you feel better.

## At the End of Your Hospital Stay

- Before you leave, a nurse will review your discharge instructions and plans for a follow-up appointment.
- Have someone drive you home. You should not drive for 24 hours.
- You may return to your regular activities the next day.

## Insurance Coverage

- Check with your insurance provider to see if the infusion will be covered. Ask how much money you will need to pay.
- Call 651-241-7246 if you need more about insurance coverage and cost.

## Whom To Call With Questions

Call the Patient Care Line at 651-241-7365  
Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.