Lidocaine

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Antiarrhythmic / local anesthetic

How it works: Suppresses ventricular ectopic activity and increases the ventricular fibrillation threshold

Reduces the velocity of the electrical impulse through the conduction system

USE IT FOR

- Ventricular fibrillation / ventricular tachycardia
- Laryngotracheal anesthesia
- Local anesthesia when starting an IO

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: high-degree heart blocks
- PVCs in conjunction with bradycardia
- Monitor for central nervous system toxicity
- Reduce the dose by 50% in patients over 70 or with liver disease
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: **Cardiac arrest: 1–1.5 mg/kg IV/IO; IO anesthesia: 50 mg**

Peds: **[dose not stated in original text]**

Repeat: **May repeat in 3–5 min at 0.5–1 mg/kg; max 3 doses or 3 mg/kg total**

WATCH FOR

- Dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Anxiety
- Confusion
- Convulsions
- Widening QRS

PEARLS

- Onset <2 min; peak 10-20 min; half-life 30 min (per page)

Take Home Message:

Lidocaine suppresses ventricular ectopy and anesthetizes the IO — halve the dose over age 70 or with liver disease.