



General Information - Ketamine Infusions

Ketamine infusions are sometimes used in chronic pain management, as part of an overall, comprehensive approach to pain management. They involve an intravenous infusion in a controlled medical setting administered slowly over a number of hours.

What is Ketamine?

Ketamine is an anaesthetic that works by altering pain pathways in the central nervous system. It can be used for:

- Neuropathic pain
- Fibromyalgia
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Chronic migraines
- Cancer pain
- Phantom limb pain

What are the benefits?

The benefits of a Ketamine infusion vary depending on the particular pain condition and the clinical reason for the infusion. You should speak with your doctor about what to expect from the infusion. Some of the reasons for an infusion may include:

- Reduction in pain, especially for conditions like CRPS
- Improved function and quality of life
- Reducing the amount of pain medications a person needs after the infusion

Are there any side effects?

There are a number of common side effects that can occur during or soon after the infusion, which is one reason why they are typically conducted in hospitals. They typically resolve within a short period of time:

- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Elevated heart rate
- Mild cognitive changes

When administered in hospital under medical supervision there is very little risk of a person developing any ongoing problems with Ketamine use after they are discharged from hospital.

