

Diagnostic Analgesic Infusions

Patient Information

A doctor at Frankston Pain Management has suggested you undergo a "diagnostic analgesic infusion" test. This information sheet explains the purpose of the diagnostic analgesic infusion. It also explains what will be done during the test. Please read this very carefully before agreeing to undergo the diagnostic analgesic infusion study. A doctor will always speak you before the test is performed. If you have questions about the test, ask the doctor before you agree to have a diagnostic analgesic infusion test.

What is the diagnostic analgesic infusion test?

The diagnostic analgesic infusion test is a way of seeing which drugs are likely to help your pain. You will be given 4 different medicines (otherwise known as "infusions") into a needle in your arm. Each of these will be a different drug. Some drugs will be pain killers, some will not. Following each infusion, we will ask you to tell us how severe your pain is. This will tell us whether the drug you have received has reduced your pain to a useful degree.

The test is performed "double-blind" so that neither you, nor the nurse giving the infusion and assessing the outcome will know what drug you are being given until after you have had all 4 medicines.

Following the diagnostic analgesic infusion test, the doctor who organised the test will check the results to see which of the drugs were useful and will discuss the results with you. This may be on the day of a diagnostic analgesic infusion test or at a later clinic appointment.

Why won't I know what drugs I am getting?

Whilst you are having a diagnostic analgesic infusion test, we will not tell you which drugs you are getting. The Nurse looking after you is also kept "blinded" to avoid telling you which drug is being given and to allow unbiased assessment. This is for a very important reason. If patients with pain and nurses are aware that they are getting/giving a particular drug, then they may expect a certain result which may effect on the amount of pain that they report/record. This would make the result of the test less useful in helping us plan your treatment.

You will be given the same 4 drugs that we use for every patient having the diagnostic analgesic infusion test. The only thing that changes is the order in which the drugs are given. We will always tell you the order the drugs once you have completed the test.