Dihydrohygotamine (DHE) Infusion Patient Information

Barrow Neurological Institute

Is DHE right for me?

Your provider discussed this treatment because you have daily migraines. You have also tried many medications and headache treatments. Most patients have tried several oral medications. The goal of this treatment is to decrease or stop your headache pain.

Will my headache go away and stay away?

We hope your pain will stop. Your provider may need to use other headache medications or treatments to stop them from coming back.

What should I expect?

We will call the hospital before your stay. Once your room is ready, they will call you. You will go to the Admissions area. Admission desk is at the front of the hospital. A doctor will see you and order the treatment. This process can take time. The DHE is given every 8 hours. Tell your provider and nurse if you experience any new symptoms. Your provider can give you medications to help decrease these side effects. You will be in the hospital for 2-5 days. If your pain improves quickly, you may go home sooner.

What are the side effects?

There can be side effects with this treatment. The most common are nausea, dizziness, and difficulty breathing. There may be options to reduce these. Talk about your concerns with your provider. These will stop within a few days of ending the treatment.

How does it work?

DHE is an infusion to treat pain. It works by activating receptors. When you have a headache, blood vessels get bigger. DHE brings your blood vessels back to normal size.

What can I bring to the hospital?

We want your stay to be as comfortable as possible. We recommend bringing a toothbrush, toothpaste, a pillow, eye mask, comfortable loose-fitting clothing, and ear plugs. If you have a shirt that buttons down in the front, this is preferred. You can also bring your own food. Overall, it is our goal that you are as relaxed as possible throughout this process. Meditation applications on your mobile device can be useful to help remain stress free.