

# Iontophoresis Made Simple

A patient's guide

# Iontophoresis Made Simple

A patient's guide



Empi, Inc.  
205 Highway 22 East  
Clear Lake, SD 57226  
[www.empi.com](http://www.empi.com)  
800.328.2536



All Rights Reserved. 802111 Rev 02 © 2009 Empi 10/09  
Caution: Federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.



# IONTOPHORESIS

## ► What is iontophoresis?

Iontophoresis is a non-invasive delivery mechanism for transmitting a medication to a local area in your body.

## ► How does iontophoresis work?

Instead of swallowing a pill or injecting a compound with a needle, iontophoresis uses very low-level electrical current to transmit medication into the body.

## ► Is iontophoresis right for me?

Your physician, physical therapist or other medical provider may decide that you would benefit from an iontophoresis treatment. The compound is placed onto a patch or electrode and applied to a very localized area, which reduces the potential risk of drug interactions. Many medical providers may consider this aspect of iontophoresis beneficial.

## ► Where do I receive iontophoresis treatment?

Iontophoresis is a prescription therapy but can be delivered by many different types of medical care providers. Most likely, your physician will refer you to a physical or occupational therapist who will determine which iontophoresis treatment is right for you.

## ► How many treatments will I need?

Depending on the severity and acute or chronic nature of your condition, your clinician may determine that as few as 4 or as many as 12 treatments may be necessary.

## ► Is iontophoresis the same as a transdermal patch?

No. A transdermal patch is a passive delivery system, while iontophoresis is an active delivery system. Iontophoresis uses an electrical current to carry the compound through the sweat glands and hair follicles to tissues below the skin.

## ► What does iontophoresis feel like?

Iontophoresis is delivered via a low-level of direct current. The compound in the patch is “carried” through the skin by the current. The current makes an invisible pathway through the skin and into the body tissue. When this occurs, you may feel a tingling sensation.

## ► Will I notice any change to my skin from using iontophoresis?

You may notice some changes to your skin after treatment is completed. In rare cases some patients may experience some skin irritation. It may appear red, feel warm, and possibly have a histamine-like appearance (small, raised, white bumps), as you would see with an allergy. Do not scratch the area. This appearance usually disappears within 12-24 hours.

## ► Is iontophoresis safe?

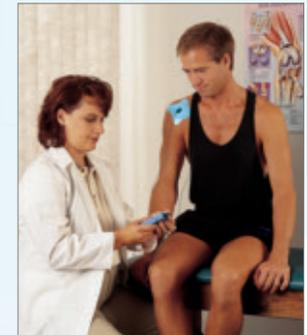
Iontophoresis is often used as an alternative to an injection. The treatment has been used and trusted by thousands of clinicians and patients for over 3 decades. Iontophoresis is a desirable method of drug delivery because you do not have to swallow anything, and the skin is not punctured by a needle.

## ► Does iontophoresis replace pills or injections?

Iontophoresis is an alternative method of drug delivery. In some instances, clinicians may want to treat a localized area and do not want to use injections or pills. In these instances, delivery of the compound by iontophoresis provides an acceptable alternative.



Hybresis™  
Iontophoresis Treatment



Dupel® B.L.U.E.  
Iontophoresis Treatment