We claim:

1. Use of ~~A medicament comprising~~ lidocaine in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of bladder pain and/or irritative voiding symptoms, wherein the medicament is to be continuously adminstered ~~by continuous administration~~ over a treatment period of 24 hours or more in an amount effective to achieve a therapeutic effect which is sustained beyond the end of the treatment period,

and wherein the continuous administration is into a patient's bladder at a mean average amount of from 10 mg to 30 mg lidocaine (FBE) per day of the treatment period.

~~2. The medicament of claim 1, for use by continuous administration into the patient's bladder at a mean average amount of from about 10 mg to about 30 mg lidocaine (FBE) per day.~~

~~3~~2. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim 1, wherein the duration of continuous ~~release~~ administration is from 10 to 14 days.

~~4~~3. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim 1, wherein the cumulative amount of lidocaine (FBE) ~~released~~ administration continuously over the treatment period is from ~~about~~ 20 mg to ~~about~~ 400 mg.

~~5~~4. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim 1, ~~for use by continuous administration~~ wherein the rate of lidocaine (FBE) released into bladder is from 15 mg to 30 mg day per day over the first 1 to 4 days of the treatment period and then tapers to a rate of from 15 mg to 3 mg per day over the remainder of the treatment period.

~~6~~5. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim ~~5~~4, wherein the measurable plasma concentration of lidocaine does not exceed 65 ng/ml at a time of peak lidocaine exposure in the bladder.

~~7~~6. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim 1, ~~for use by continuous administration~~ wherein the rate of lidocaine (FBE) released into bladder is from 25 mg to 60 mg day per day over the first 1 to 6 days of the treatment period and then tapers to a rate of from 25 mg to 10 mg per day over the remainder of the treatment period.

~~8~~7. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim ~~7~~6, wherein the measurable plasma concentration of lidocaine does not exceed 65 ng/ml at a time of peak lidocaine exposure in the bladder.

~~98~~. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim 1, ~~for use by continuous administration~~ wherein the therapeutic effect is sustained more than 48 hours beyond the end of the treatment period.

~~109~~. A drug delivery device comprising a medicament according to any one of the preceding claims, configured to release lidocaine when inserted into the bladder.

~~1110~~. The drug delivery device of claim ~~109~~, configured to release lidocaine continuously from 2 to 28 days, preferably from 3 to 21 days.

~~1211~~. The drug delivery device of claim ~~109~~, configured to release lidocaine continuously from 10 to 14 days.

~~1312~~. The drug delivery device of claim ~~109~~, configured to be wholly deployed into the bladder of a patient during the treatment period, for releasing lidocaine or other anesthetic agent to the bladder.

~~1413~~. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim 1, wherein continuous administration of the lidocaine to the bladder is by pumping into the bladder through a urethral catheter which is deployed into the bladder during the treatment period.

~~1514~~. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim 1, wherein continuous administration of the lidocaine ~~or other anesthetic agent~~ administered to the bladder is by release from a coating substance that is transurethrally applied to the bladder wall, the coating substance comprising lidocaine and one or more excipient materials that promote adherance of the coating substance to the wall of the bladder and provides continuous controlled release of the lidocaine over the treatment period.

~~16. A medicament comprising an anesthetic or analgesic agent for use in the treatment of bladder pain and/or irritative voiding symptoms by continuous administration of the anesthetic or analgesic agent over a treatment period of 24 hours or more in an amount effective to achieve a therapeutic effect which is sustained beyond the end of the treatment period.~~

~~17. The medicament of claim 16, wherein the anesthetic or analgesic agent is lidocaine.~~

~~18~~15. Use of ~~A medicament comprising an anesthetic or analgesic agent~~ lidocaine in the manufacture of a medicament for ~~use in~~ the treatment of bladder pain and/or irritative voiding symptoms, wherein the medicament is to be ~~by~~ continuously ~~administration~~ administered~~of the anesthetic or analgesic agent~~ to the patient in an amount effective to achieve a measurable plasma concentration of the ~~agent~~ lidocaine in the patient continuously over a treatment period of at least 24 hours,

and wherein the lidocaine is released continuously into the bladder of the patient for a treatment period of from 2 to 28 days.

~~19. The medicament of claim 18, wherein the anesthetic or analgesic agent is lidocaine.~~

~~20~~16. The ~~medicament~~ use of claim ~~19~~15, wherein the lidocaine is released continuously into the bladder for between 2 and 14 days.

17. The use of claim 15, wherein the continuous administration is into a patient's bladder from a device delivering between 150 and 1000 mg of lidocaine (FBE).