

What is IVIG?

Intravenous Immune Globulin (IVIG) is a blood product that contains antibodies in a concentrated form. It is made from plasma collected from human blood donors. There are several different brands of IVIG in Canada and they are all similar in effect.

What are the risks?

IVIG is considered to be a safe blood product with a low risk of transmitting disease. Blood donors are carefully tested before they donate, and during the manufacturing IVIG is treated to destroy the viruses that cause HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Why am I getting it? What does it do?

IVIG is used to replace antibodies in patients that have lower than normal levels. These antibodies help to fight infections. It can also be used to treat other conditions, some in which the body attacks its own tissues or organs. Ask your doctor to explain your individual treatment with IVIG.

How is it given?

Your doctor will ask you to give consent for blood transfusion. Your nurse will start an intravenous (IV) line. IVIG is given through a vein in your arm or hand. It is a clear liquid that comes in

glass bottles or plastic bags and is given slowly over several hours. Your nurse will check your vital signs before and during the infusion.

What are the side effects?

Side effects from IVIG usually occur during or up to 24 hours following infusion and tend to be mild and short lived. Patients who are well hydrated before infusion seem to have fewer side effects.

5-10% of patients experience minor side effects related to the rate of infusion, these can often be reduced by slowing the rate of infusion and giving other medications such as Tylenol or Benadryl.

When should I be concerned?

Seek immediate, emergency medical attention if you experience any of the following symptoms:

 **Severe headache or eye pain**

 **Extreme drowsiness**

 **Facial and/or tongue swelling**

 **Shortness of breath, chest tightness**

 **Blood in urine**

 **Intense back pain**



***IVIG (Immune Globulin)
FACTS FOR OUTPATIENTS***



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