



Hands Feet & Heart

Texas Chapter of the Neuropathy Association

Helpful Hints for Starting IVIG Treatment

1. Depending on the amount of IVIG, the infusion will take about 4-10 hours and can be administered in the hospital, outpatient infusion center, physician office or at home with a home health care nurse. The medicine can be infused through a vein in the arm or through a port-a-cath if the patient has one. If the infusions will be frequent, the patient may consider inserting a port-a-cath for convenience.
2. Find out what brand IVIG has been ordered. Gamunex, Gammagard liquid, Gammagard S/D, Carimune NF, Flebogamma and Octagam are the most widely used. Gammunex is the only FDA approved brand for CIDP.
3. Gammunex offers a Gammunex Connection program that offers patient support and a program that assigns the patient credits for each infusion that could be used to receive treatment in the event of an insurance lapse. Sign up for Gammunex Connections at <http://www.gamunex-c.com/html/patient-connexions-support.htm>.
4. Possible side effects during IVIG infusion
 - a. Itching
 - b. Fever
 - c. Tachycardia or high blood pressure
 - d. Lack of ability to focus and short attention span
 - e. Headache
 - f. Congestive heart failure with shortness of breath
 - g. Meningitis with severe headache
 - h. Hemolytic anemia with fatigue and jaundice
 - i. Kidney dysfunction
5. Possible side effects after infusion:
 - a. Overall fuzziness and lack of ability to focus or concentrate
 - b. Vomiting and stomach ache.
6. If experiencing any of these side effects, call their physician or nurse.
7. To help with side effects take prophylactic Benadryl tablets and drink plenty of fluids before and during the infusion. Some physicians order a small dose of steroid with every infusion (Solumedrol 10-20mg IV) which seems to help. If nausea occurs during infusion, the rate may be set too high and if it is lowered, it may help. Zophran may help with nausea.
8. Sign up for Patient Notification System to be alerted of any recalls or bad immune globulin products at www.patientnotificationsystem.org
9. Keep a log of the date, brand and the specific lot number, dosage, who infused it and any side effects. Also keep track of symptoms between infusions.
10. Every 3 months for the first few years of IVIG infusions, have blood tests (blood count and chemistry profile) completed to monitor any effects on the body.

IVIG Products

	Gamunex	Gammagard Liquid	Gammagard S/D	Carimune NF	Flebogamma	Octagam
Producer	Talecris	Baxter	Baxter	ZLB Bioplasma	Grifols	Octapharma
Concentration	10%	10%	5%, 10%	3%,6%,9%,12%	5%	5%
Stabilizer	Glycine	Glycine	Glucose	Sucrose	Sorbitol	Maltose
Sodium	Trace	Trace	0.85-1.7%	<20mg/g protein	<3mEq/L	<3mmol/L
Osmolarity	258 mOsm/kg	240-300 mOsm/kg	636 (5%) – 1250 (10%) mOsm/kg	384 (6%)-768 (12%) mOsm/kg	240-350 mOsm/kg	310-380 mOsm/kg
pH	4.0-4.5	4.6-5.1	6.4-7.2	6.4-6.8	5.0-6.0	5.1-6.0
IgA microgram/ml	45	37	<2.2	720	<50	<100
Notes	Caprolyte /chromatography purification	Solvent detergent, nanofiltration, acid purification	Solvent detergent purification	Nano-filtration	Pasteurization	Solvent detergent purification

Courtesy of Alexacare