

**Patient
Information**

Immunoglobulin treatment

Introduction

This leaflet provides you with information about your immunoglobulin treatment.

What is immunoglobulin?

Immunoglobulin is a liquid blood product containing antibodies.

Why am I receiving this treatment?

You are being given this treatment as the antibody levels in your blood are low; this makes you prone to infection.

What are the benefits of immunoglobulin?

There is strong clinical evidence to show that if you are not treated with immunoglobulin, your condition may become worse due to repeated infection and chronic chest complications.

What are the possible side-effects?

As with all medicines, there is a small chance of side effects, however immunoglobulin has a good safety record. Allergic reactions can be mild, moderate or severe.

Mild reactions usually happen within 30 minutes of starting the treatment. These include headaches, flushing, chills, back pain or muscular aches.

Severe allergic reactions are rare and usually happen within seconds or minutes of beginning the treatment. Symptoms may include an itchy skin rash, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty in breathing, dizziness or fainting.

Reference No.

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Department

Immunology/Allergy

Review due

October 2024

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How will I receive the immunoglobulin?

Your immunoglobulin can be given into a vein, in your arm, over a 2 to 5 hour period. This is then repeated every 2 to 4 weeks. Alternatively the immunoglobulin can be given subcutaneously (under the skin) on a weekly basis. The specialist nurse will discuss the best option for you.

Your treatment is given by specialist nurses.

Will I need any blood tests?

You will have regular blood tests. The dosage and frequency of your treatment will be adjusted as needed.

Contact information

If you have any concerns please contact your GP or the Specialist Nurse at the Edward Jenner Unit. Outside of normal working hours you should contact NHS 111 for advice.

The Edward Jenner Unit

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 5213

Monday to Thursday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

NHS 111

Tel: 111

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