AAIDA Patient Quick Guide To Immunoglobulin Therapy

What Is Immunoglobulin (Ig)?

- Ig's, also known as antibodies, are proteins produced by the body's immune system
- Ig's help detect harmful substances in the body, called antigens
- Ig's teat people who do not make enough of their own antibodies naturally OR in people who have antibodies that do not work properly
- Ig's are given to patients intravenously (through a vein) or subcutaneously (under the skin)
- Prepared from human plasma donations, Ig from donors is screened through multiple safety and purification steps including donor screening, viral removal, and inactivation or viruses
- Your prescriber chooses a specific product that is right for you depending on your age, medical history, and diagnosis because all products vary in concentration of Ig, sodium content, stabilizer used, and pH of the product

Immunolobulin Product Brand Names	Intravenous Administration	Subcutaneous Administration
Asceniv™ 10%	x	
Bivigam® 10%	x	
Flebogamma® DIF 5% & 10%	x	
Gammagard Liquid 10%	x	x
Gammagard S/D 5%	x	
Gammaked™10%	X	x
Gammaplex® 5% & 10%	x	
Gamunex®-C 10%	X	x
Octagam® 5% & 10%	x	
Panzyga®10%	x	
Privigen® 10%	x	
Cutaquig® 16.5%		x
Cuvitru® 20%		x
Hizentra® 20%		x
Hyqvia® 10% with Recombinate Human Hyaluronidase		x
Xembify® 20%		X

*Each immunoglobulin product has unique characteristics and is *not* interchangeable. Product trademarks are property of their respective owners. **Information displayed covers only conditions the FDA approves IVIG/SCIG usage for.

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Ig is used to treat many different disease states but is primarily used in these situations: immunodeficiencies, inflammatory conditions, and neuromuscular conditions.

Ig Questions	For Patients With Immunodeficiencies	For Patients With inflammatory Or Neuromuscular Conditions
Why do I need Ig?	Your body might not make enough antibodies or what it does makes aren't effective in preventing infections. Because your body needs these antibodies to fight off infection to keep you healthy, you may need to receive Ig on a regular basis.	Your immune system may be attacking your body by producing antibodies directed at your own cells. In certain conditions, this can cause an attack on your nervous system, such as the nerves that control sensation, which can result in progressive weakness, numbness, tingling or other sensory symptoms that impact your life.
What does Ig do?	The Ig provides or replaces the antibodies your body cannot make on its own which will help your body fight off infections.	It isn't known exactly how Ig works in these types of cases, but it is thought that it helps decrease the immune and inflammatory process that is attacking your own cells.
How is Ig given?	If you are getting Ig because of immunodeficiency, Ig is normally given on a regular schedule. Your health care team will determine how often and for how long you will need to continue to get Ig.	If you are receiving Ig to block your immune system from attacking your own body, it can be given as one dose or might be given on a regular schedule. Your health care team will determine how often and for how long you will need to continue to get Ig.
What is the goal of IG therapy?	The goal of Ig therapy in immunodeficiencies is to help reduce the number and severity of infections that you get.	The goal of Ig therapy in these cases is to help reduce the inflammation and decrease the symptoms that you are experiencing.
How soon will Ig therapy work?	Because the administered Ig is replacing or supplementing Ig in your body, you can expect that the Ig will help protect you from infections within several weeks to months depending on your dose and how often you receive your IG treatment.	Sometimes it takes weeks or months of Ig for you and your healthcare team to determine if the treatment is working and your symptoms, your healthcare provider may adjust your dose if a response to your treatment is not seen within several months.

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Intravenous Ig vs Subcutaneous Ig

Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) is administered by a medical professional in a healthcare setting such as a hospital, clinic, infusion center, or in your own home. IVIG infused into a vein and can take several hours depending on the amount of Ig to be infused. Your first infusion may take longer than subsequent infusions and your healthcare provider will monitor your vital signs to make sure you aren't having any adverse or allergic reactions during your treatments.

Advantages of IVIG	Disadvantages of IVIG
• Often requires less frequent dosing • Only on IV access point at a time, so less needle sticks • Contact with healthcare professional at each treatment to clinically monitor side effects and disease state • No infusion training or self-administration necessary	• Requires venous access • Healthcare professional needed to administer therefore patient needs to schedule in advance • Side effects that impact the entire body (systemic side effects) are more likely

Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIG) is administered by slowly infusing the Ig directly under the skin. Your healthcare provider will ensure you and/or your caregiver have proper training to administer your infusions independently in your home. You may need to use multiple infusion sites to administer your full dose of Ig. Potential infusion sites include your abdomen, thighs, upper arms, and upper leg/hip.

Advantages of SCIG	Disadvantages of SCIG
• Flexibility to infuse Ig yourself • Smaller volumes to infuse more frequently can result in steadier levels of Ig in the body • Side effects are generally localized to the injection sites	• Requires more frequent infusions • Requires multiple injection sites meaning more needle sticks per infusion • Often have less contact with healthcare professionals.so concerns with treatment are more difficult to answer • Requires dexterity and use of fine motor skills

Scan here for access to a full clinical comparison chart of all Immunoglobulin products

References: IgNs Ig Clinician's Quick Reference: https://www.ajmc.com/view/intravenous-and-subcutaneous-immunoglobulin-treatment-options; https://www.uptodate.com/contents/intravenous-immune-globulin-ivig-beyond-the-basics; https://primaryimmune.org/immunoglobulin-replacement-therapy

Selected Ig Side Effect Management Strategies

Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG): you may experience an allergic reaction, headache, flushing, changes in blood pressure, and flu-like symptoms (chills, fever, muscle/joint aches). Your healthcare team will monitor you throughout your infusion and will decide if it is appropriate to give you medications before the infusion such as acetaminophen, antihistamines, or corticosteroids. Drinking plenty of fluids prior to your infusion may also help alleviate some of the adverse event (AE's), as well as slowing or stopping the infusion for a time. Your provider may also choose to change you to another brand of IV immunoglobulin or switch to a subcutaneous formulated if AE's become too bothersome.

Potential IVIG Adverse Event	Intervention or Mitigation Strategies
Headache	Ensure adequate hydration, slow or stop the infusion, consider analgesic or corticosteroid
Flu-Like Symptoms	Slow or stop the infusion, consider analgesic, ensure adequate hydration
Rash	Stop the infusion, administer antihistamine and/or corticosteroid

Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIG): the most common adverse event (AE) include headaches and injection site irritation (redness, swelling, itching). Adequate hydration, pre-medicating with medications such as acetaminophen, and slowing down the infusion time can possibly help alleviate these effects. If you experience irritation at the injection site, make sure you have the right needle length and needle size that is adequate for your subcutaneous injection. Your healthcare provider can help you determine which needle will work best for you. Rotating the injection sites is also important in reducing the chance of irritation and avoid areas on the skin where there is inflammation or scar tissue. Warm/cold compresses or gentle massage can help after the infusion. Your healthcare provider help you decide if any of these choices are right for you.

Potential SCIG Adverse Event	Intervention or Mitigation Strategies
Infusion Site Leaking	Check needle to ensure proper length, insertion, placement, and securement
Infusion Site/Local Site Reactions	Check needle to ensure proper length, gauge, insertion, placement, and securement; assess sensitivity to tape; employ a dry priming technique to decrease redness and itching; gentle massage or warm/cold compress; rotate infusion sites; decrease volume per site or increase infusion time

Ig products are generally well tolerated, but as with any medication there is a chance of having adverse event (AE's). There are ways to help decrease the amount of AR's you might experience. The most important thing is to always communicate your concerns with your healthcare team to ensure that you have the best experience possible.

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