



Iron infusion Ferinject®

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Version 3

About this leaflet

You have been given this leaflet because you have been found to have low levels of iron in your body. This is called iron deficiency (ID) or iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) and you are advised to receive an infusion of Ferinject® (ferric carboxymaltose) to try and correct the iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia.

What is Ferinject® and what is it used for?

Ferinject® is an iron preparation that we can give to you as an infusion (a drip into your arm) and it is used to increase your iron levels when oral iron preparations are ineffective, not tolerated or cannot be used.

Do I need to take iron tablets?

You must not take iron tablets or supplements while you are having Ferinject®.

Iron tablets should be stopped for 7 days before and after administration of intravenous iron.

Also, oral iron therapy should not be started for at least 5 days after the last administration of Ferinject®.

Where and how will you receive Ferinject®?

You will be asked to attend an appointment at the outpatient department and either the doctor or the nurse will explain the treatment to you and get your consent to proceed.

Before receiving Ferinject®, the nurse will perform a set of observations (blood pressure, heart rate and temperature) and then insert a small plastic tube (a cannula) into your arm to allow the intravenous iron to be started.

This will be flushed with sterile salty water (sodium chloride) to make sure that it is inserted properly in your vein. You may feel the cool fluid going up your arm. Please inform the nurse if this is painful in any way.

The nurse will then attach the iron drip to your cannula and the infusion will be given through an electronic pump over 15- 30 minutes. You will be required to stay for 30 minutes following completion of the infusion to ensure you have not developed any immediate side effects or allergic reaction.

The nurse will monitor you closely during and following the infusion and will repeat a set of observations. As long as you feel well, you will be able to be discharged home.

What are the side effects of Ferinject®?

Ferinject® is usually safe but like all medication there can be some unwanted effects.

There are some **common side effects** that can occur in up to 10% of patients treated. These can include headache, dizziness, feeling hot (flushing), high blood pressure nausea and injection/infusion site reactions.

Uncommon side effects which may affect up to 1 in 100 people are numbness, tingling, a change in your taste, high heart rate, low blood pressure, difficult breathing, vomiting, rash, muscle pain and cramps, diarrhoea, constipation, itching, fever, tiredness, chest pain, swelling of the hand and /or feet and chills.

On rare occasions fluid can leak out of the needle that goes into your vein (cannula) during the infusion. If this happens it could cause long-term or even permanent **discolouration or staining of your skin**.

Very **rarely** it can cause a significant allergic reaction called **anaphylactic reaction**. This reaction can cause symptoms such as swelling of face, mouth and tongue as well as breathing difficulty. Your nurse will monitor closely for this and will provide treatment if required.

You should tell the doctor or nurse immediately if you:

- **feel unwell before, during or after the treatment.**
- **experience any discomfort, burning, redness or swelling at the cannula**
- **experience any of the side effects whilst you are being treated with Ferinject®**

> Will I need any follow-up?

It may be necessary for you to receive a second dose of Ferinject®, which will not be given until at least seven days after the first dose. Your nurse will inform you about it and organise the appointment if this is required.

Leaflet given by:	
Patient (signature):	

> Further information

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, contact outpatient reception on 0141 951 5530 and ask to speak to the nurse in charge.

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كافة مطبوعاتنا متاحة بلغات مختلفة و بالأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة و بطريقة بريل الخاصة بالمكفوفين (باللغة الإنكليزية فقط) و على شريط كاسيت سمعي أو بصيغة بديلة حسب خيارك.

Tha gach sgrìobhainn againn rim faotainn ann an diofar chànanan, clò nas motha, Braille (Beurla a-mhàin), teip clàistinn no riochd eile a tha sibh airson a thaghadh.

हमारे सब प्रकाशन अनेक भाषाओं, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई, ब्रेल (केवल अंग्रेज़ी), सुनने वाली कसेट या आपकी पसंदनुसार किसी अन्य फॉरमेट (आरएफ) में भी उपलब्ध हैं।

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: **0141 951 5513**