

Immune Globulin (Gammagard, Gammaplex, Gamunex-C, WinRho SDF, Privigen, Hizentra, Xembify and others)

About This Drug

Immune globulin is made up of antibodies called immunoglobulins. It is used to prevent or reduce the severity of infections in people with a weakened immune system. Also, it can be used to increase platelets in people with immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), and to treat some neuromuscular diseases and a number of other conditions. It is given in the vein (IV), as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously), or in the muscle (intramuscular).

Possible Side Effects

- Heart murmur and/or increased heart rate
- Fever, chills/rigors
- Tiredness and/or weakness
- Ear pain
- Pain and/or soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores that hurt.
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Injection site reaction - you may get a rash, swelling or bruising or your skin may get red, warm, itchy or painful at the site of your infusion or injection
- Headache/migraine
- Feeling dizzy
- Pain in your abdomen, arms and/or legs
- Pain in your joints and/or muscle
- Swelling in your legs, ankles, and/or feet
- Asthma
- Cough
- Pain in the nasal passages and throat
- Rash/hives
- Itching
- High blood pressure

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 5% or greater of patients treated with immune globulin. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on

your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other drugs in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this drug may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this drug. You should get urgent medical treatment.**
- Increased protein in your blood and electrolyte changes
- Risk of aseptic meningitis
- Breakdown of your red blood cells, which can cause anemia (decreased red blood cells). With certain forms of immune globulin, this breakdown of red blood cells can be life-threatening.
- Inflammation (swelling) of the lungs. You may have a dry cough or trouble breathing.
- Blood clots and events such as stroke and heart attack. A blood clot in your leg may cause your leg to swell, appear red and warm, and/or cause pain. A blood clot in your lungs may cause trouble breathing, pain when breathing, and/or chest pain.
- Changes in your kidney function, which can cause kidney failure
- Immune globulin is made from human plasma and carries a very rare risk of transmitting infectious diseases.

Note: *Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.*

Important Information

- Talk to your doctor before receiving any vaccinations during your treatment. Some vaccinations are not recommended while receiving immune globulin.
- Immune globulin may interfere with certain blood tests and some type of blood sugar monitoring systems, which can falsely increase your blood sugar readings. Please talk to your doctor and/or nurse for more information.

How to Take Your Medication

- Talk to your doctor, nurse, and/or pharmacist for proper preparation, dosing, and administration if you are self-injecting this medicine.

Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.



- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- Get regular exercise, with your doctor's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously try taking a short walk.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- Mouth care is very important. Your mouth care should consist of routine, gentle cleaning of your teeth or dentures and rinsing your mouth with a mixture of 1/2 teaspoon of salt in 8 ounces of water or 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water. This should be done at least after each meal and at bedtime.
- If you have mouth sores, avoid mouthwash that has alcohol. Also avoid alcohol and smoking because they can bother your mouth and throat.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your doctor for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- While you are getting this drug, please tell your nurse right away if you get a rash, swelling or bruising or your skin gets red, warm, itchy or painful at the site of your infusion or injection.

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of immune globulin with food.
- This drug may interact with other medicines. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the prescription and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) that you are taking at this time. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Headache that does not go away
- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- Tiredness and/or extreme weakness that interferes with normal activities
- Ear pain that does not go away



- Signs of meningitis: severe headache, a stiff and painful neck, sensitivity to light, fever, vomiting, and/or feeling very sleepy
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Symptoms of a stroke such as sudden numbness or weakness of your face, arm, or leg, mostly on one side of your body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, feeling dizzy, loss of balance or coordination; or sudden, bad headache with no known cause. **If you have any of these symptoms for 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Cough that is bothersome
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Feeling that your heart is beating fast or not in a normal way (palpitations)
- Chest pain or symptoms of a heart attack. Most heart attacks involve pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. The pain may go away and come back, or it can be constant. It can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. Sometimes pain is felt in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. **If any of these symptoms last 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Pain in your mouth or throat that makes it hard to eat or drink
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- A new rash and/or itching or a rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Your leg is swollen, red, warm and/or painful
- Decreased or very dark urine
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Swelling in your legs, ankles, and/or feet
- Abnormally high or low blood sugar - if you are testing your blood sugar at home
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** It is not known if this drug may harm an unborn child. For this reason, be sure to talk with your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while receiving this drug. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this drug passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this drug because this drug may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.



Revised April 2023

