

## Sodium ferric gluconate (Ferrlecit)

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### About This Drug

Sodium ferric gluconate is used to treat anemia (low red blood cells) caused by low iron levels. It is given in the vein (IV).

### Possible Side Effects

- 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. Your skin may sometimes become brown at the injection site.
- Cramps and leg cramps
- Feeling dizzy
- Pain in your chest
- General pain
- Trouble breathing
- Low/high blood pressure

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in 10% or greater of patients treated with sodium ferric gluconate. Not all possible side effects are included above.

### Warnings and Precautions

- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some patients and can be life-threatening. 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.**
- Severe low blood pressure
- Iron overload (too much iron in your body)

### Treating Side Effects

- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.

## Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of sodium ferric gluconate 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:

- Headache that does not go away
- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Pain in your chest
- 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 that does not go away or is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- 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:** This drug may pass into breast milk. For this reason, women should not breastfeed during treatment because this drug could 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.

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