

# Patient blood management

## Ferinject<sup>®</sup> intravenous iron

## **Ferinject®**

Ferinject® is sometimes used to increase your iron levels instead of giving you iron tablets. It is an iron preparation that we can give to you as a drip into your arm. You have been diagnosed with iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) and you are advised to receive an infusion of Ferinject® before your surgery to try and correct the anaemia.

## **How is Ferinject® given?**

You will be invited to attend a pre-operative anaemia management clinic appointment where you will be seen by a specialist nurse. This will be in the haematology day unit at Guy's Hospital. You will need to report to the main reception and you will be called by the nurse.

The nurse will explain the treatment to you and perform a set of observations including blood pressure, heart rate and temperature. A cannula (small plastic tube) will be inserted into your arm to allow the intravenous iron to be started. This will be removed before you leave.

The Ferinject® takes around 15 minutes to administer and you will be required to stay for 30 minutes following completion of the infusion to ensure you do not experience any symptoms of allergy or reaction to the iron infusion.

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 leave. 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; this may be done in the haematology day unit or on admission to the ward.

## **Ferinject® safety**

Ferinject® is safe unless you have a known sensitivity or allergy to iron supplements, a liver problems or you are in the first trimester of pregnancy. There is some risk of allergic reaction but this is uncommon (less than 1 in 100 (1%) of patients treated). There are some more common side effects that you may experience (up to 10 in one hundred (10%) of patients treated) such as headache, dizziness, nausea and vomiting, rash, muscle cramps, diarrhoea, constipation, low or high blood pressure, flushing, abnormal liver function and injection site reactions. You must report any symptoms to the nurse whilst you are in the clinic.

## **Further information**

You must not take iron tablets or supplements while you are having Ferinject®. Please speak to your surgeon or the specialist nurse if you have any questions after reading this leaflet.

### **Contact us**

Any important information or contact details that you want to highlight in a text box like this.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets)

## **Pharmacy Medicines Helpline**

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

**t:** 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

## **Your comments and concerns**

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

**t:** 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** [pals@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk)

**t:** 020 7188 3514 (complaints)

**e:** [complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk)

## **Language and Accessible support services**

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

**t:** 020 7188 8815 **e:** [languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk)

## **NHS 111**

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

**t:** 111

**NHS Choices** – Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

**w:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

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