

Iron infusion risks and side effects

Iron infusions are generally given without causing any problems. Nausea, the most frequently reported side effect, occurred in less than three out of every 100 patients (2.9%) during clinical studies. However, it is important that you are aware of and understand the risks and potential side effects of having an iron infusion.

Who should not have iron infusions (contraindications)

- Women in the first three months of pregnancy
- Those with severe asthma, severe renal (kidney) or hepatic (liver) problems, eczema, atopy (hypersensitivity disorders), active rheumatoid arthritis, and those with infections.

What are the risks?

- Hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis (acute allergic reaction) can occur with parenteral iron infusion (those having an iron infusion via a feeding tube) although this is uncommon.
- Hypophosphataemia (low phosphorous level), new musculoskeletal symptoms such as weakness or bone pain, or worsening of tiredness, report these symptoms to your GP or hospital contact who can check for hypophosphataemia. This is more common with ferrinject.

What are the side effects?

- **Common** (1 in 10 to 1 in 100) – headache, dizziness, flushing, hypertension (high blood pressure), nausea, injection site reactions.
- **Uncommon** (1 in 100 to 1 in 1000) – abdominal pain, vomiting, cramps, dyspnoea (breathing difficulties), arthralgia (joint pain), numbness, itching, rash chest pain, diarrhoea, dizziness, fatigue, hypotension (low blood pressure), myalgia (muscle pain).
- **Rare** (1 in 1,000 to 1 in 10,000) – angioedema (swelling under the skin), reduced level of consciousness (drowsy), anxiety, bronchospasm (narrowed airways).

Important phone numbers:

Battle Day Unit: Bookings 0118 322 6980 or 8723

Haematology Clinical Admin Team (CAT 8): Tel: 0118 322 8145 or email
CAT8@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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Patient consent for intravenous iron infusion

I acknowledge and understand that the proposed treatment of an intravenous iron infusion has been explained to me and is to be performed on me, the patient:

- **Benefits** – To treat iron deficiency anaemia.
- **Risks** – Intravenous iron can cause serious hypersensitivity reactions which can be fatal. The risk of sensitivity is increased in patients with known allergies, immune or inflammatory conditions as well as patients with a history of severe asthma or eczema.
- **Side effects** as listed above.
- The **potential alternatives** to intravenous iron (blood transfusion or oral iron therapy) have been offered (if appropriate) and explained to me.
- I have been given a copy of the patient information leaflet about intravenous iron.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the treatment.
- I understand I can withdraw my consent at any time.

Patient signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Patient name: _____