

Immune Globulin Therapy Side Effects

When receiving Immune Globulin therapy — either by intravenous (IVIG) or subcutaneous (SCIG) administration — it is important to recognize side effects. Some patients may experience no side effects, while others may have mild to moderate side effects. The table below lists the most common side effects experienced by patients receiving Immune Globulin therapy (mild, moderate and severe to serious). Generally, SCIG is associated with less side effects than IVIG, other than needle site reactions.

MILD SIDE EFFECTS

Possible effects; can be managed at home.

These symptoms should not interfere with daily activities and include headache (pain rated 1–4 on a 0–10 scale), mild nausea, general fatigue, flu-like symptoms, diarrhea, low-grade temperature <101° F, rash/itchy skin, mild back or leg pain/achiness. For SCIG, mild local needle site reaction. These side effects should subside within 72 hours after receiving Immune Globulin therapy.

If symptoms occur during the infusion, inform the nurse so the rate can be decreased or stopped until symptoms improve. Maintain good oral hydration before, during and after therapy. Take ordered premedications before therapy and repeat as needed if ordered. Eat small meals. Try to rest when fatigue sets in.

MODERATE SIDE EFFECTS

Unexpected and needs to be reported. May need to seek medical intervention.

These symptoms affect daily activities and include headache (pain rated 5–7 on a 0–10 scale) lasting more than 24 hours; nausea/vomiting, diarrhea lasting 24 hours or more, hives, rash lasting > 72 hours, fatigue affecting daily activities, temperature between 101–104° F.

These side effects are **NOT** expected. You may need changes in treatment ordered by your doctor. **Report these side effects to the Nufactor pharmacist as soon as possible. Please call: (800) 323-6832. We will work with your physician to reduce side effects.**

SEVERE TO SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS

MUST SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION

Severe headache with pain reported as “intolerable” (pain rated 8–10 on a 0–10 scale) and/or severe headache (with neck stiffness, sensitivity to light, painful eye movement or visual disturbances), temperature >104° F, uncontrollable vomiting/diarrhea, decreased urine output, dark urine, sudden weight gain, new onset of swelling in feet, chest pain, shortness of breath, lower leg swelling or pain, mental status changes such as confusion, slurred speech, drooling and unresponsiveness.

Immediate medical attention is required. You may need evaluation by a local emergency room. Depending on severity of symptoms, either call 911 or have a family member/caregiver drive you to the ER. **Report these side effects to the Nufactor pharmacist as soon as possible. Please call: (800) 323-6832.**

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