

INTRAVENOUS (I.V.) IRON

WHY HAS MY DOCTOR PRESCRIBED THIS DRUG?

Intravenous iron is usually used to prevent or to treat anemia. Anemia occurs when the body has insufficient reserves of iron. Iron is essential in producing red blood cells, which carry oxygen throughout the body. You will be administered iron through a vein for approximately 1.5 hours (90 minutes). Between treatments and after they have ended, you must take blood tests to verify whether the i.v. Iron was effective. You will receive the medication until your iron level is sufficient.

WHAT ARE SOME POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS IF I.V. IRON?

Intravenous iron (Venofer and Monoferric) is a safe and generally well tolerated drug. As with any drug, here may be side effects during or following administration. The tables below show potential symptoms, their observed frequency, and measures to take.

ADVERSE EFFECTS DURING PERFUSION

Reactions	Frequency	What to do
Hot flashes	1%	Notify the nursing staff. The perfusion will be temporarily interrupted and the symptoms will simply vanish once the treatment is stopped for a few minutes. The treatment can then resume.
Chest pain		
Tightness in chest		
Nausea/vomiting	5%	Notify the nursing staff. The speed of drug delivery can be decreased to reduce the symptoms.
Abdominal pain (stomachache)		
Itching	Rare	These are the symptoms of an allergic reaction. Notify the nursing staff. The perfusion will be ended.
Skin rash (redness, small bumps)		
Difficulty breathing:		
Swollen face		

AVERSE EFFECTS FOLLOWING PERFUSION

Reactions	Frequency	What to do
Metallic taste in the mouth	8%	Chew mints and try different foods to mask the metallic aftertaste. This adverse effect will disappear within a few days.
Nausea/vomiting	5%	Stay hydrated. These effects will disappear within a few days.
Abdominal pain (stomachache)		
Diarrhea		
Headache	Between 5 and 10%	Take acetaminophen to alleviate these symptoms. These symptoms will last 24 to 72 hours.
Shivering/fever		
Joint and muscle pain		
Dizziness/weakness	3%	These symptoms will disappear within a few days.
Numbness	6%	
Difficulty breathing	Rare	Go immediately to the emergency department.
Swollen face		
Itching	Rare	Consult a health care professional immediately.
Skin rash (redness, small bumps)		

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Info-Santé 811

Consult your prescriber or your pharmacist.

Redaction

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