

Iron Infusions

What is an iron infusion?

An iron infusion is a minor procedure in which an iron-containing medicine is infused directly into the blood circulation. The medication circulates and is delivered to the body organs that require iron for normal functioning.

Should I have an iron infusion?

An iron infusion is sometimes recommended for people who are low in iron. Usually iron can be given orally, but some patients experience side effects from oral iron (stomach upsets, constipation), in which case an infusion may be recommended. If body iron is particularly low, an infusion may be used to increase iron stores quickly.

Are iron infusions safe?

It's generally recommended that iron therapy initially be given orally. Iron infusions are considered safe, particularly with the newer iron-containing medications available today. In the past, older iron infusions were associated with common side effects including allergic-type reactions — much less common with current medications (e.g. Ferrinject), though still a potential risk. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of an iron infusion for your particular circumstances.

What are the side effects of an iron infusion?

It's unusual to experience significant side effects from an iron infusion with newer medications. Some patients experience a headache or feel nauseated. Less commonly, patients experience flushing, a disturbance in taste, itchiness, fever, and chills. Please see the full list of side effects for the specific medication given to you by your doctor.

What do I need to do on the day of the iron infusion?

There is no particular preparation needed. It's helpful to have had plenty of fluids to drink, so finding a vein for the infusion is easier. You will be able to drive home after the iron infusion.

How long does the iron infusion take?

The infusion usually only takes 15–20 minutes once hooked up.

Is there anything I need to do after the iron infusion?

It's always important to monitor your own health after an iron infusion. If you experience any significant symptoms (for example, chest pain or difficulty breathing), it's important to contact your doctor or an emergency department as soon as possible.

Further Questions?

The information presented in this fact sheet is intended as a general guide only.

Patients should seek further advice and information about **Iron Infusions** and their individual condition from their treating haematologist or doctor.

For additional information about blood disorders and their treatment, or to contact one of our specialist

haematologists, visit the Melbourne Haematology website:
www.melbournehaematology.com.au