



Information for
patients and
carers

Receiving a Ferinject Infusion.

What is a Ferinject Infusion?

Ferinject (ferric carboxymaltose) is special type of iron preparation given through a drip into a vein (also known as an 'infusion'). Ferinject is sometimes used instead of iron tablets; it is an alternative to a blood transfusion so does not have the associated risks as it is not a blood product. For those receiving Ferinject, it is usual to receive two infusions with a gap of at least one week between each infusion. The doctor will calculate and prescribe the amount needed.

You may need a Ferinject Infusion if:

- Your blood tests show you are anaemic and oral iron tablets have not improved your iron levels or have made you feel unwell. Iron deficiency anaemia can occur when your body is not getting enough iron and cannot produce enough red blood cells. It is common for women who are pregnant or who have just given birth to have iron deficiency anaemia
- Your gut may not absorb enough iron from your food (even if you have an iron-rich diet)
- You had a significant blood loss after the birth of your baby (causing your iron levels to be low), but otherwise you are feeling well
- You have declined a blood transfusion

Safety and side effects.

Ferinject is considered safe to use after the first three months of pregnancy and after birth. Rarely (in less than 1% of cases) it can cause allergic reactions. You will be monitored closely before, during and after the infusion.

A rare but significant complication of Ferinject is permanent skin staining or discoloration around the injection site or involving a more extensive area of the arm. This can occur if some of the drug leaks

outside the vein during the infusion. To reduce the risk, a flush of water or saline (salt solution) is given into your vein before the Ferinject. Please let your midwife know if you experience any pain, burning or a feeling of heaviness in your arm during the infusion.

Other possible side effects which could occur include;

- headache
- dizziness
- rash
- nausea and vomiting
- abdominal pain
- muscle cramps
- diarrhoea
- constipation
- abnormal liver function
- flushing
- low or high blood pressure
- injection site reactions

(These affect less than 10% of people who receive Ferinject).

Please discuss any concerns you may have with your midwife or obstetrician.

Process of receiving the Ferinject Infusion

Ferinject infusions are performed in the Maternity Assessment Suite, Sharoe Green Unit, Royal Preston Hospital. Initially the midwife will assess your well-being by checking your pulse, blood pressure and temperature (observations). A cannula (thin tube) will be inserted into a vein in your arm by a Midwife or Doctor and a saline flush (salt solution) will be given into the vein. The Midwife or Doctor will then start the Ferinject infusion (drip) which usually takes about 30 minutes. Another saline flush will be given after the Ferinject infusion has finished and before the cannula is removed. Your observations will be recorded after the infusion and you will need to stay for a half hour to ensure you are feeling well prior to leaving the unit. If a second infusion is required, this appointment will be made before you leave the department.

Your iron level will be rechecked usually by your Midwife, no earlier than 4 weeks after the final infusion. This allows adequate time for red blood cell formation and your iron levels to adjust.

Further information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this leaflet, please let your midwife or Obstetrician know. They will be happy to discuss them with you.

Antenatal Clinic: 01772 524272

Maternity Assessment Suite telephone: 01772 524776.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یی چھپا یں ییہ ابی دست بو یسکت ہے برا ئے مہر یان پو ے یچھہی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن تو فسير هذه المعلومات

Department: Maternity
Division: Women & Children
Production date: March 2022
Review date: March 2025
JR 776 v1