



Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Ferinject[®] (ferric carboxymaltose) Intravenous Iron

Information for patients



This leaflet answers some common questions people ask about intravenous iron (ferric carboxymaltose or Ferinject). Further information can be found in the information leaflet supplied by the manufacturer or from your pharmacist, IBD nurse specialist or doctor.

What is Ferinject?

Ferinject is a sterile, liquid solution of iron, which is given through a vein into your bloodstream (intravenous infusion). It will help to top up your iron levels if you have an iron deficiency.

Iron is an essential part of haemoglobin, which is found in red blood cells and carries oxygen around the body. Iron is stored in the body by myoglobin in your muscle tissue and plays an important role in keeping your body healthy.

Why am I having Ferinject?

Ferinject may be used in the following situations:

- if you are known to be intolerant to iron preparations taken by mouth (such as tablets or liquid)
- if you need iron to be delivered quickly to the iron stores in your body
- if you have active inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and also can't take iron by mouth.

What dose will I have?

You will need to be weighed and have a blood test before being given Ferinject. We will use your weight and haemoglobin blood test result to calculate the dose you need.

To get the correct dose you may need to come in for two intravenous infusions, at least a week apart. Your haemoglobin levels should be rechecked by your GP, approximately 4-6 weeks after the full dose has been given.

How is Ferinject given?

You will receive the iron as a drip infusion through a vein in your arm. It is usually given over a period of 15 minutes. The infusion comes as a brown liquid in a bag.

We will carry out some checks before and after the infusion, such as measuring your blood pressure and heart rate, to check how you're responding to the infusion.

What are the common side effects?

Like all medicines, Ferinject may cause side effects, although these are not common.

Side effects that you may experience include:

- headache
- dizziness
- nausea (feeling sick)
- vomiting
- stomach pain
- skin rash
- constipation
- diarrhoea
- high temperature
- shivering
- muscle pain.

There is a risk that the Ferinject may leak from the infusion site (where it enters your arm) into the surrounding tissue in your skin. This can cause pain, inflammation and potentially long-lasting brown discolouration on your arm.

If leakage occurs, the infusion will be stopped. Please tell a nurse or doctor if you experience any pain or swelling at the infusion site during the infusion.

Very rarely, Ferinject can cause an allergic reaction. If you experience a rash (e.g. raised, red, itchy bumps), itching, difficulty breathing, wheezing and/or swelling of your lips, tongue, throat or body, you must tell a nurse or doctor immediately.

If you experience any side effects at home after the infusion, please contact your GP.

Are there any reasons why I should not receive Ferinject?

You should not receive Ferinject if:

- you are known to be allergic to Ferinject or any other ingredients in the infusion
- your anaemia is not due to a shortage of iron
- you have too much iron in your body, or your body cannot use iron very well.

You doctor will also need to discuss with you whether you can have Ferinject if:

- you have a liver problem
- you have an infection
- you have rheumatoid arthritis
- you have asthma, eczema or other allergies.

Can Ferinject be given during pregnancy and when breastfeeding?

You should avoid having Ferinject during the first 3 months of pregnancy. If you need an iron infusion after 3 months of pregnancy, your doctor will discuss with you whether Ferinject is suitable. It is safe to have Ferinject when breastfeeding.

Can Ferinject interfere with my other medicines?

Ferinject should not be given at the same time as other iron preparations taken by mouth, as it may stop them from being absorbed. If you need to take iron preparations by mouth, these should be started at least 5 days after the last dose of intravenous iron.

Ferinject does not appear to have any interactions with other medicines.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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