

# Information for the treatment of Immune Thrombocytopenia in Adults



## Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg)

### First-line treatment

Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg) is a solution comprising human plasma proteins, particularly IgG antibodies, with a broad spectrum of antibody activity. IVIg is prepared from large pools of human plasma collected from several thousand blood donors and is used for patients who need the replacement of antibodies and autoimmune disorders.

All IVIg products are tested and screened to protect patients from diseases and undergo at least two processes that destroy viruses. The risk of infection from this product is very low.

Intravenous Immunoglobulin is commonly called IVIg and can be used soon before, during or after medical procedures or on-demand as a first-line or rescue therapy. IVIg can be combined with other treatments, including corticosteroids.

IVIg is used to treat many immune deficiency disorders, and in ITP, it is used to elevate platelet counts temporarily. Although IVIg is not expected to result in a sustained, elevated platelet count, in rare cases, this does occur, and this therapy can be repeated for longer-lasting results.



#### BRAND NAMES

Privigen® AU (CSL Behring), Privigen® (CSL Behring) [Imported], Flebogamma® (Grifols), Gamunex® (Grifols), Octagam® 10% (Octapharma), Kiovig® 10% (Takeda) Privigen® AU.



#### HOW DOES THE TREATMENT WORK?

IVIg is a blood product that reduces the destruction of antibody-coated platelets.



#### HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED?

The immunoglobulin is administered intravenously through an IV directly into the vein. Depending on the dosage, this treatment can take between 2 and 8 hours per infusion.

IVIg is administered by a health care professional (nurse or clinician) in hospital or day treatment centre.



#### DOSAGE

The Ig dose is calculated based on the patients weight.

Dosing options include 0.4g/kg daily for 3-5 days or 1g/kg for 1-2 days, with the latter having a faster response.



#### COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

The most common side effects of IVIg include headache, fever, chills, nausea or vomiting, muscle pain or chest pain. In many cases, slowing down the infusion rate can help reduce these side effects.

It is recommended that premedication with antihistamines or occasionally corticosteroids can also assist with reducing side effects. Some reactions may occur post-infusion, and these will generally present within 24 hours of the infusion.



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#### RARE SIDE EFFECTS

Aseptic meningitis, hypotension (low blood pressure), haemolysis (breakdown of red blood cells), kidney failure, thrombosis (blood clots), and anaphylaxis (severe allergy) have been reported.



#### TREATMENT RESPONSE

24 to 48 hours. The 5% and 10% formulations appear to have similar efficacy.

In some instances, the effectiveness of IVIg can reduce over time when used repeatedly.



#### LIKELIHOOD OF AN INITIAL RESPONSE

Approximately 75%.



#### LIKELIHOOD OF A LONG-TERM RESPONSE? 3-5 years

Effects generally last several days to weeks. It has not been shown to induce a sustained response in adults.



#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

IVIg may increase platelet count more rapidly than corticosteroids when each is used as a single agent. Pre-treatment and post-treatment with corticosteroids may be necessary to improve effectiveness and help to minimise side effects.

Patients are recommended to remain well hydrated. Lowering the infusion rate can also assist with reducing common side effects. Risks associated with the use of a blood product should be discussed between the patient and the healthcare professional.

IVIg can be used in pregnancy.

NB: Allocation of domestic or imported immunoglobulin products, including Kiovig 10%, is being managed within BloodSTAR based on patients' specific conditions, according to a pre-determined allocation matrix that the NBA regularly adjusts.

#### REFERENCES

<https://itpaustralia.org.au/thanz-aus-nz-ity-guidelines/>  
<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2021/216/1/consensus-guidelines-management-adult-immune-thrombocytopenia-australia-and-new>  
<https://itpaustralia.org.au/introduction-of-imported-immunoglobulin-product-kiovig/>

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