

Subcutaneous Immune Globulin (SCIG) Home Infusion

Information for Patients and Caregivers

What is SCIG?

Subcutaneous immune globulin (SCIG) is a blood product made from plasma collected from human blood donors. SCIG contains special proteins, called antibodies, which can help fight infections. It is injected under the skin (subcutaneously). Unlike intravenous (in the vein) immune globulin (IVIG), which is given in a hospital, SCIG can be easily infused at home. SCIG is used to treat adults and children who need antibodies replaced because they have secondary immunodeficiency.

What is secondary immunodeficiency (SID)?

In our bodies, white blood cells and antibodies called immune globulins (Ig) identify and destroy bacteria and viruses. This protects the body against infections. When someone cannot make enough Ig on their own they have secondary immunodeficiency (SID).

How is SCIG given?

SCIG is injected by the patient or caregiver into the fatty tissue just under the skin, usually on the abdomen or thighs. Before you take your SCIG home, your doctor or nurse will instruct you on how to inject it. This will take several sessions, to make sure you can perform the injections safely and comfortably.

How does SCIG fit my lifestyle?

Treating SID can be time-consuming. The ability to infuse SCIG at home gives you greater freedom and flexibility in your treatment schedule, allowing you to:

- Schedule therapy around your life, not life around your therapy
- Remain active while you infuse
- Take your therapy with you when you travel.

Are there risks with this blood product?

SCIG is considered one of the safer blood products with a low risk of spreading disease. Human donors are carefully tested before they can donate blood. Also, as part of the manufacturing process, SCIG is treated to kill the viruses that cause AIDS (HIV), Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Will I have side effects?

Some patients develop injection site reactions, which are usually mild and diminish over 24-48 hours. Symptoms of these reactions include local redness, swelling, discomfort and itching. Other side effects include headache, fever, nausea and rash.

What should I tell my doctor?

Allergies: Tell your doctor if you have had allergic reactions to intramuscular (IM) or intravenous (IV) immune globulins, or if you are allergic to anything else, like foods, preservatives or dyes.

Blood clots: In rare cases, IVIG can interfere with blood flow and lead to blood clots in the legs or lungs. If you have any history of blood clots, you must discuss this with your doctor. No serious reactions have been observed in clinical trials of SCIG.

Pregnancy: If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant discuss the use of SCIG with your doctor.

Breastfeeding: It is not known whether IVIG passes into breast milk. Mothers who are receiving IVIG and wish to breastfeed should discuss this with their doctor.

Other medicines or vaccines: Discuss with your nurse and doctor any medications or treatments you are currently receiving, including recent vaccinations, in case they affect your response to SCIG or in case SCIG interferes with their effectiveness.

Important Safety Information

SCIG is derived from human plasma. As with all plasma-derived products, the risk of transmission of infectious agents, including viruses and the variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD or “mad cow disease”) agent, cannot be completely eliminated.

In clinical trials of SCIG, the most frequently reported adverse reactions were mild or moderate swelling, redness and itching at the injection site. These reactions tended to decrease over time after several injections. Other adverse reactions included headache, gastrointestinal disorders, fever, nausea, sore throat, rash, allergic reaction, increased cough, pain and diarrhea.

If you are concerned about these or any other adverse reactions, please talk to your doctor. Prior to beginning treatment, you must discuss the risks and benefits of SCIG with your doctor and complete a signed consent form to indicate that you understand the need for treatment and the risks of potential adverse reactions associated with the treatment.