Ferinject® patient information

You have been given this leaflet because you have low levels of iron in your body (iron deficiency and/or anaemia) and your doctor believes that Ferinject® is an appropriate treatment for you.

Every cell in your body needs iron to work properly. It’s needed in your red blood cells and muscles. The aim of Ferinject® is to boost your body’s iron stores. Having treatment can significantly improve your ability to get around, think and feel better.

About Ferinject®

Ferinject® is an intravenous iron replacement therapy.

The iron in Ferinject® is in the form of tiny particles with a special coating designed to protect the iron until it gets to where it needs to go, then it’s released slowly into your system.

Ferinject® is not a blood product or transfusion.

Your Ferinject® treatment

You will be treated with Ferinject® by your doctor or nurse in one of two ways:

• by injection, directly into a vein in your arm, or
• by infusion into a vein in your arm through a drip.

Your doctor or nurse will decide on the best way to give you your treatment, and explain how they’re going to do it before they begin.

Your treatment time will be approximately 15 minutes, after which you’ll wait for 30 minutes before you head home.

What happens after treatment?

About four to six weeks after your first Ferinject® treatment your doctor will arrange a blood test to recheck your iron levels. Based on the results, they will decide if you need any more Ferinject®.

Are there side effects?

As with all medicines, Ferinject® can sometimes cause side effects. The most common side effect is a headache.

There is a low risk with all iron treatments given directly into your vein that you could experience a reaction known as an anaphylactoid reaction.

This can cause symptoms such as swelling of the face, mouth and tongue as well as potentially cause difficulty with breathing.

There is a small (uncommon) risk of long-lasting brown discolouration of the skin which can occur due to leakage of Ferinject® at the injection site.

Your doctor or nurse will discuss possible side effects with you and will also monitor you while your treatment is being given, and afterwards for half an hour.

Please tell your health professional if you feel unwell or think you may be experiencing any side effects while you are being treated with Ferinject®.

www.ferinject.co.nz