

## Intravenous Immunoglobulins (IVIg)

Intravenous Immunoglobulins (IVIg) are a type of therapy that contains purified antibodies obtained from the blood of healthy donors. These antibodies can help treat a variety of conditions where the immune system attacks the body's own tissues or organs.

Intravenous Immunoglobulins are used to treat several conditions that affect the immune system, including:

- Paraprotein Neuropathies - This is a group of conditions where abnormal proteins produced by the bone marrow damage nerves, causing symptoms like tingling, numbness, weakness, and pain.
- Demyelinating Neuropathies - These conditions cause damage to the myelin sheath that covers nerve fibres, leading to symptoms like weakness, numbness, tingling, and loss of reflexes.
- Myasthenia Gravis - This is a condition where the immune system attacks the nerve-muscle junction, leading to muscle weakness and fatigue.
- Paraneoplastic Neurological Syndromes - These are rare disorders where cancer cells produce abnormal proteins that can trigger an immune response that damages the nervous system.
- Autoimmune Encephalitis - This is a condition where the immune system attacks the brain, leading to symptoms like confusion, memory loss, seizures, and behavioural changes.

Intravenous Immunoglobulins are given through a vein (intravenously) in the arm. The treatment usually takes several hours and may need to be repeated over a few days or weeks.

The most common side effects of Intravenous Immunoglobulins are mild and include: headache, nausea, fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or joint pains. Rare but serious side effects may include blood clots, kidney damage, anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction), heart attack or stroke (in patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease)

Intravenous Immunoglobulins are generally safe and effective, but there are strict rules around their usage due to cost and global short supply.

Intravenous Immunoglobulins should be administered by a healthcare professional in a medical setting, and patients should be monitored for any adverse reactions during and after the treatment. It is important to keep track of any changes in your symptoms after receiving Intravenous Immunoglobulins and to report them to your doctor promptly.