

# Immune globulin: Patient drug information

**Brand Names: US** Gammagard; Gamunex-C; Octagam; Privigen

## Warning

•The chance of blood clots may be raised with this drug. The chance may be higher in older people, if you have to be in a bed or chair for a long time, if you take estrogen products, or if you have certain catheters. Some health problems like thick blood, heart problems, or a history of blood clots raise the chance of having blood clots. Blood clots can happen if you do not have any of these health problems. Call your doctor right away if you have numbness or weakness on one side of your body; pain, redness, tenderness, warmth, or swelling in the arms or legs; change in color of an arm or leg; chest pain or pressure; shortness of breath; fast heartbeat; or coughing up blood. Talk with your doctor.

•Kidney problems have happened with human immune globulin. Sometimes, these problems have been deadly. Kidney problems are more common in people using products that have sucrose. Most immune globulin products do not have sucrose. The chance of these problems may be raised if you have kidney problems, high blood sugar (diabetes), fluid loss (dehydration) or low blood volume, a blood infection, or proteins in the blood that are not normal. The chance may be raised if you are 65 or older, or if you take other drugs that may harm the kidneys. Talk with your doctor if you have questions about this information or about if your product has sucrose.

•You will need to be sure that you are not dehydrated before getting this drug. Check with your doctor to see if you need to drink extra fluids before getting this drug.

## What is this drug used for?

•It is used to stop or lower the harshness of other infections in people with a weak immune system.

•It is used to treat immune thrombocytopenia (ITP).

•It is used to treat chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP).

•It is used to stop or lower the harshness of infection by hepatitis A, measles, chickenpox (varicella), and rubella.

•It is used to treat multifocal muscle neuropathy.

•It is used to treat Kawasaki disease.

- It is used to treat a certain muscle problem caused by inflammation (dermatomyositis).
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

### **What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?**

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have IgA deficiency.
- If you have too much proline in your blood (hyperprolinemia).
- If you have too much fluid in the body or have been told to watch how much fluid you drink.

### **What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- If you have a latex allergy, talk with your doctor. Some products have latex.
- Talk with your doctor before getting any vaccines. Use of some vaccines with this drug may either raise the chance of an infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.
- If you have a weak immune system and you have been exposed to measles, talk with your doctor.
- This drug is made from human plasma (part of the blood) and may have viruses that may cause disease. This drug is screened, tested, and treated to lower the chance that it carries an infection. Talk with the doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

### **What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?**

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

- Signs of kidney problems like unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Fever, chills, or sore throat; any unexplained bruising or bleeding; or feeling very tired or weak.
- Change in color of skin to a bluish color like on the lips, nail beds, fingers, or toes.
- Seizures.
- Bloating.
- Feeling confused.
- Swelling.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Mood changes.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Change in speech.
- Change in eyesight.
- Shakiness.
- Sweating a lot.
- Very bad belly pain.
- Dark urine or yellow skin or eyes.

### **What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Irritation where this drug is given.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Back pain; muscle spasm.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Dizziness.
- Flushing.
- Cramps.

### **How is this drug best taken?**

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.

