



Managing Side Effects of Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG)

As with any treatment, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) infusion has side effects. The key to getting the best treatment results while minimizing adverse effects is working closely with your healthcare team. *Discuss this information with your healthcare team prior to treatment.*

Helpful tips in minimizing the adverse effects of IVIG infusion:

1. Hydrate well with liquids the day before, of and after infusion day — avoid caffeine and alcohol.
2. Pre-medicate a half an hour to an hour prior to infusion.
Possible pre-meds to discuss with your healthcare team include:
 - Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
 - Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
 - Prednisone
 - Hydrocortisone
 - Methylprednisolone (Solumedrol)
 - Saline IV
3. Decreasing the rate of infusion — do not exceed 4 cc/kg/hour infusion rate unless directed by physician.
4. Ask for numbing cream.
5. Keep a log of infusions, pre-medications, lot numbers and side effects and jot down any questions.