

**MEDICATION NAME:** **IVIG (INTRAVENOUS IMMUNE GLOBULIN)**  
**BRAND:** **GAMUNEX, GAMMAGARD, OCTAGAM**

HOW IS IT GIVEN:	Intravenous infusion (IV).
HOW DOES IT WORK:	IVIG is a blood product that reduces the destruction of antibody-coated platelets. The mechanism of action is not fully understood.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	0.8 - 1 g/kg/dose x 1-2. Equivalent total dose distributed over 5 days has been used.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Headache; flu-like symptoms (flushing, nausea, fever, chills, malaise).
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Aseptic meningitis, hypotension (low blood pressure), hemolysis (breakdown of red blood cells), kidney failure, thrombosis (blood clots), and anaphylaxis (severe allergy) have been reported.
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	24-48 hours.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	Approximately 70-80%.
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	Effects generally last several days to weeks. Not shown to induce sustained response in adults.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	May increase platelet count more rapidly than corticosteroids when each is used as a single agent. Minimize side effects by pre-treatment (and post-treatment as necessary) with Benadryl, Tylenol, and possibly steroids, in addition to providing adequate hydration and lowering rate of infusion. Risks associated with use of a blood product should be discussed.  Can be used in pregnancy.

**References:**

1. Guo, Y., Tian, X., Wang, X., and Xiao, Z. (2018). Adverse effects of immunoglobulin therapy. *Frontiers in Immunology*. PMID 29951056.
2. Khan, A., Myra, H., and Nevarez, A. (2017). Clinical Practice Updates in the Management of Immune Thrombocytopenia. *Pharmacy and Therapeutics* 42(12): 756-763.
3. Platelet Disorder Support Association <https://pdsa.org/ivig.html>
4. Stasi, R., and Provan, D. (2004). Management of Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura in Adults. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. April 79:504-522.
5. University of California San Francisco Health <https://www.ucsfhealth.org/conditions/immune-thrombocytopenia/treatment>