

Ferinject Iron Infusion - Patient Information

www.ferinject.co.nz

You have been given this leaflet because you have been found to have low levels of iron in your body and your doctor believes that Ferinject® (ferric carboxymaltose) maybe an appropriate treatment for you.

Iron is an essential element required for the oxygen carrying capacity of haemoglobin in red blood cells and muscle tissue. Iron is also involved in many other functions necessary for maintenance of life in the human body.

The aim of the iron replacement therapy is to replenish body iron stores and to remedy anaemia, a lack of red blood cells due to iron deficiency.

Please note there is a fee for this procedure of \$150 to cover use of the treatment room and both the Doctor and nursing time involved: plus the current cost of the medication itself in addition.

What is Ferinject®?

Ferinject® is a treatment for patients who have low levels of iron in the body. Ferinject® is not a blood product. Over time low levels of iron can lead to anaemia, where red blood cells are either smaller and/or fewer than normal.

What is Ferinject® used for?

Ferinject® is used to increase the amount of iron in your body. Increasing the iron in your body is intended to reverse anaemia or prevent you from becoming anaemic. Your doctor has prescribed Ferinject® as he/she believes it to be an appropriate treatment for you.

How does Ferinject® work?

Ferinject® contains iron in the form of tiny particles of iron with a sugar coating. This means that the iron is released steadily and is able to be taken up by the appropriate storage sites and to be used by the tissue in your body. Iron is required by the red blood cells to provide oxygen to the body and also has other important roles to play in keeping the body healthy.

What will your doctor want to know before you start treatment?

Your doctor will want to talk to you before you start treatment as not all medicines are suitable for all people. Before you are given Ferinject®, your doctor may ask you about the following:

- Your full medical history
- Whether you are taking any other medicines, including those that don't need a prescription
- If you are pregnant or if you are planning to become pregnant.

How will you receive your treatment?

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

- By injection, directly into a vein in your arm.
- By infusion, diluted and given directly into a vein in your arm through a drip. Your doctor or nurse will decide on the most appropriate way to give you your treatment.
- Your treatment time will be approximately 15 minutes.

What possible side effects might you experience?

As with all medicines, Ferinject® can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. The most common side effect you might experience from treatment with Ferinject® 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 causing difficulty breathing. Your doctor will discuss possible side effects with you and will also monitor how you are while your treatment is being given.

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

- Usually you can go straight home after Ferinject® treatment has finished.
- Your doctor will request a blood test at about 4 weeks after treatment.
- You may require a repeat treatment based on your body's iron needs.