

IRON INJECTION

Iron polymaltose complex, iron sucrose

Other names: Ferrum H®, Venofer®, Ferrosig®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine

In iron deficiency anaemia the patient suffers from fewer red blood cells than normal or there is less haemoglobin than normal in each red blood cell. In either case, there is a reduced amount of oxygen carried in the blood stream. The most common cause of anaemia is lack of iron which is needed to make haemoglobin.

Signs of anaemia can include:

- tiredness
- shortness of breath
- feeling cold

Iron injection can be used to prevent iron deficiency anaemia caused by:

- chronic kidney failure
- pregnancy
- poor absorption of iron
- bleeding (e.g. from the intestine)
- when oral iron replacement is not appropriate

When to take this medicine

The dose is usually injected intramuscularly (into a muscle) or by an intravenous infusion.

If you miss a dose

Inject as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not inject two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Tell your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- dizziness or light headedness (low blood pressure)
- chest or abdominal pain
- severe skin rash and itch
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- extreme drowsiness
- flushing, sweating
- palpitations, fast pulse
- swelling in your hands, ankles or feet
- severe gastrointestinal upset – nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation
- fever and chills

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- gastrointestinal upset – nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation
- leg cramps or muscle pain
- mild skin itching
- headache
- pain and inflammation at the injection site

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Other Medication

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.