

Human Immune Globulin (IG) Information Sheet

What is immune globulin (IG)?

- (IG) are antibodies that are extracted from blood.

What does IG do?

- IG may prevent hepatitis A, or make the symptoms less severe if it is given before or within 2 weeks of exposure to hepatitis A virus. IG can provide protection for up to 3 months.

Who should receive IG?

- Infants <1 years, adults > 40, and medically compromised individuals who have been exposed to hepatitis A virus, within two weeks of last exposure.
- Travelers to areas with high or intermediate rates of hepatitis A virus who are allergic to a vaccine component or in whom the vaccine is contraindicated.

Who should contact their health care provider before receiving IG?

- Persons with a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of IG.
- Persons with a serious allergic reaction to latex. Most people who have contact allergy to latex can receive IG.
- Persons with certain antibody deficiencies (such as immunoglobulin A deficiency). These persons may receive a special form of IG by vein.
- Persons who have severe problems with bleeding. Your provider may decide it is safe for you to receive IG in your arm, or they may decide to give it to you by vein.

Can I receive IG if I am pregnant or lactating?

- Yes. Pregnancy or lactation is not a contraindication to IG administration.

What are the risks from IG?

- Local pain and tenderness at the site where the IG was given, itching, hives, and swelling also may occur.
- Severe allergic reactions are rare.

What if I just received, or will soon receive, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and/or varicella (chickenpox) vaccines?

- If you or your child has received MMR in the last 2 weeks and/or varicella vaccine in the last 3 weeks, IG can be given today. However, you or your child should be revaccinated, but not sooner than 3 months after IG for MMR or 5 months for varicella vaccine.
- If you or your child are planning to get the MMR and/or varicella vaccine in the near future, administration of MMR should be delayed for at least 3 months and varicella vaccine for at least 5 months after administration of IG for hepatitis A prevention.