

INTRAVENOUS (IV) IRON INFUSIONS

**Commonly Asked Questions:
What Patients Need to Know**



What Is an IV Iron Infusion?

Intravenous (IV) iron infusion is a treatment that delivers iron directly into the bloodstream through a vein. It is used to treat patients with iron deficiency anaemia (IDA), supporting haemoglobin production and improving symptoms such as tiredness and reduced energy.

Why Do You Need an IV Iron Infusion?

Oral iron supplements are usually prescribed as the first-line treatment for iron deficiency. However, an IV iron infusion may be recommended if you:

- ✓ Are unable to take oral iron tablets / liquid.
- ✓ Do not respond to oral iron tablets / liquid, or are unable to absorb them effectively.
- ✓ Need to increase your iron levels quickly.

Types of IV Iron Infusions

There are several IV iron preparations available, including:

- ✓ Cosmofer® (Iron Dextran)
- ✓ Monofer® (Iron III Isomaltose 1000)
- ✓ Ferinject® (Iron Carboxymaltose)
- ✓ Ranofer® (Iron Sucrose)

Your doctor will discuss the best treatment option for you, identify the underlying cause of the iron deficiency, and advise on how it can be corrected.

Benefits of IV Iron Infusion

An IV iron infusion helps restore your body's iron levels, which can lead to an increase in haemoglobin. As a result, you may experience:



Increased energy and reduced tiredness



Less shortness of breath during physical activity



Improved concentration



Fewer gastrointestinal side effects, such as constipation

Before the IV Iron Infusion

Stop taking your iron tablets one day before the IV iron infusion. Inform your doctor if you:

- ✓ Have severe asthma, eczema, or other atopic (allergic) conditions.
- ✓ Are pregnant (IV iron infusions should be avoided during the first trimester).
- ✓ Have systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, or other immune or inflammatory conditions.

You should **NOT** receive an IV iron infusion if you:

- ✓ Have known liver disease (certain iron products may not be suitable, please consult your hepatologist).
- ✓ Are allergic to any iron preparations given intravenously or intramuscularly.
- ✓ Have acute or chronic infections.

During the IV Iron Infusion

No particular preparation is required.



You do not need to fast – eat your usual meal.



Continue taking your regular medications.



Drink plenty of water, as this helps to find a vein more easily.

The nurse will insert an IV cannula into your arm to administer the iron. Your doctor will confirm the type of iron preparation used and the duration of the infusion. **If you experience any discomfort or pain at the infusion site, inform your nurse immediately.**

After the IV Iron Infusion

You will be observed for 30 minutes to monitor any acute hypersensitivity reactions.

If you were previously on oral iron tablets, your doctor will advise when to restart your iron tablets, usually one week after the infusion. Blood tests will be done two to four weeks later to check your response to treatment.

What Are the Possible Side Effects?

IV iron infusions are widely used and generally safe, but some side effects may occur, including:

- ✓ Metallic taste in the mouth (disappears within 15 minutes)
- ✓ Headache, dizziness, or feeling sick
- ✓ Nausea or vomiting
- ✓ Skin reactions at the injection site (e.g., redness, swelling, burning, pain, bruising, discoloration, or irritation)
- ✓ Skin flushing
- ✓ Temporary lowering of blood pressure or pulse

■ **Delayed reactions** can occur from several hours up to four days after treatment. These may include arthralgia (joint pain), myalgia (muscle pain), and sometimes fever. Symptoms usually last two to four days and can be managed with simple pain relievers such as paracetamol. Contact your doctor if symptoms persist or worsen.



■ **Skin staining (brown discolouration)** may occur due to leakage of iron into the surrounding tissue at the injection site. Although uncommon, the staining can be long-lasting or permanent.

■ **Serious allergic reactions** (anaphylaxis) are very uncommon but can be life-threatening. Symptoms may include swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue, which can potentially cause difficulty breathing. Acute severe anaphylactic reactions are considered rare, occurring in 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 10,000 patients.

For Patients Receiving Ferinject®

Inform your doctor if you experience worsening tiredness, muscle, bone, or joint pain (such as pain in the arms, legs, or back). These symptoms may indicate low blood phosphate levels, which can lead to softening of bones (osteomalacia) and sometimes bone fractures.

Your doctor may monitor your blood phosphate levels, especially if you require multiple iron infusions over time.

For more information, kindly contact:

Clinical Pharmacy Team

(Mon - Fri: 8.30 am - 5.30 pm)

+603-7491 9191
Ext: 20009 / 20013 / 11290 /
21009 / 36070

Ground Floor Pharmacy

(24 hours)

Tower B Tower C
☎ (Ext: 78090) ☎ (Ext: 20004)

SUNWAY MEDICAL CENTRE

Sunway City Kuala Lumpur

Sunway Medical Centre Sdn Bhd

199501012653 (341855-X)

No. 5, Jalan Lagoon Selatan,
Bandar Sunway,
47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor,
Malaysia.

☎ +603-7491 9191 / 5566 9191
☎ +603-7491 8181
✉ smc@sunway.com.my

Find us on:



🌐 sunwaymedical.com



Joint Commission
International (USA)



Australian Council on Healthcare
Standards International



Malaysian Society
for Quality in Health



European Society
for Medical Oncology



CERTIFIED TO ISO 45001:2018
CERT. NO.: OHS 09028



CERTIFIED TO ISO 45001:2018
CERT. NO.: MY - OHS 09028



The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia



COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS



RTAC
REGISTRATION BOARD FOR
ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE