

Iron Infusion

Your Doctor has asked that you have an iron infusion.

You should have been given a prescription for Ferrinject, which you will need to get from the Pharmacy before your appointment, and bring with you.

When you arrive, our nurse will take you to the treatment room and get you comfy! The Doctor will then discuss the procedure with you and make sure you understand the information provided below with regards to possible side effects.

A cannula will be inserted into either your arm or your hand and the infusion will then proceed. During the infusion the nurse will monitor your blood pressure and heart rate. The infusion generally takes about 30mins to be complete, after which the cannula will be removed and you may go home. We usually ask you sit in the waiting room for 20 mins prior to leaving.

You will be asked to follow up with your GP in 4-6 weeks.

Side Effects

Generally, when side effects do occur, they are mild and settle down on their own.

The most common side effects are temporary and include:

- Headache, feeling sick or vomiting, muscle or joint pain
- Changes in taste (eg. metallic)
- Changes to blood pressure or pulse
- Skin staining (brown discolouration) may occur due to leakage of iron into the tissues around the needle (drip) site. This is not common but the stain can be long lasting or permanent.

Inform the doctor or nurse straight away of any discomfort, burning, redness or swelling at the needle (drip) site.

Although very uncommon, some people may have a serious allergic reaction. In rare cases this can be life threatening. You will be closely monitored while IV iron is given, and for 30 minutes after. Sometimes side effects (eg. headache, muscle or joint pain) can start 1 to 2 days later. Mostly they will settle down by themselves over the next couple of days. If they worry you or interfere with your daily activities contact your doctor for advice.

There is a fee associated with this procedure with out of pocket cost to you of \$100.