

SCIG Treatment and the Calgary SCIG Home Infusion Program

Is SCIG treatment a better fit for your life than IVIG? This brochure contains information about the product to help you decide if this treatment option is right for you.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) have a program for Calgary and Southern Alberta to train patients and provide the supplies needed to enable them to give themselves SCIG at home.

How do I get referred for SCIG treatment?

Talk to your doctor about your interest in SCIG treatment for your disease.

For further information on:

SCIG Treatment and the SCIG Home Infusion Program please contact us at:

403-944-6248 or via email
scighomeinfusion@cls.ab.ca



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Subcutaneous Immune Globulin (SCIG)

Information for Patients and Caregivers

What is SCIG?

Subcutaneous immune globulin (SCIG) is made from plasma, the liquid part of blood, which comes from blood donors. SCIG contains antibodies, which can help fight illness/sickness. There are several brands of SCIG in Canada. SCIG is an alternative to intravenous immune globulin (IVIG).

How is SCIG given?

You or your caregiver injects the SCIG just under the skin (this is called subcutaneous), usually on the stomach or thighs. The SCIG program staff will teach you how this is done. It will take a few lessons to ensure you are able to safely and confidently give the injections by yourself.

How does SCIG fit my lifestyle?

IVIG treatment can take up a lot of your time, especially if you have to go to the hospital to receive it. Injecting SCIG at home gives you greater freedom and flexibility, and allows you to:

- Plan treatment around your life, not life around your treatment
- Remain active while you give yourself SCIG
- Take your treatment with you when you travel

Check with your doctor or nurse if you plan to spend more than three months in a row outside Canada as there is a limit on the amount of SCIG you can take with you.

Are there risks with this blood product?

SCIG is one of the safer products. It is made from blood with a low risk of agents that cause AIDS (HIV), Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Variant Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, also called vCJD or “mad cow disease”.

People who donate blood are carefully tested. SCIG is treated to kill the viruses that cause AIDS (HIV), Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.

Will I have side effects or reactions?

Side effects are not common, but may include; headache, fever, nausea, diarrhea, sore throat, rash, increased cough and pain.

Some patients have reactions at the SCIG injection site such as redness, swelling, discomfort and itching. These are usually mild and go away over 24-48 hours.

There is a slight chance that a serious, total body, allergic (anaphylactic) reaction may occur. There is a rare chance of a blood clot developing in a blood vessel causing a blockage.

Before you start on SCIG, your doctor is required to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of SCIG. You will need to sign a consent form that says you understand the need for treatment and the reactions that may be a result. If you are worried about these or any other reactions, talk to your doctor.

What should I tell my doctor?

Allergies: Tell your doctor if you have had allergic reactions to immune globulins, or if you are allergic to anything else, like foods, preservatives or dyes.

Blood Clots: There is a rare chance that a blood clot could form in a blood vessel. If you have any history of blood clots, you must talk about this with your doctor.

Pregnancy: If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant talk about the use of SCIG with your doctor.

Breastfeeding: It is not known whether SCIG passes into breast milk. Mothers who are receiving SCIG and wish to breastfeed should discuss this with their doctor.

Other medicines or vaccines: Inform your doctor of any medications or treatments you are taking, including recent vaccinations, in case the medication interferes with your SCIG treatment or the SCIG treatment interferes with your medication.

