



IMMUNE GLOBULIN (IG)

What is IMMUNE GLOBULIN (IG)?

Immune Globulin (IG) is used to prevent Hepatitis A infections after acute exposure. Standard immune globulin (formerly called gamma globulin) is a concentrated solution of antibodies prepared from pooled human plasma. In the United States, only plasma that has tested negative for Hepatitis B surface antigen, antibody to Hepatitis C, and antibody to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is used to manufacture Immune Globulin.

What is the effectiveness of Immune Globulin?

When administered intramuscularly before exposure to Hepatitis A or within two weeks after exposure, Immune Globulin is 85% effective in preventing Hepatitis A.

Who should receive Immune Globulin?

Immune Globulin should be used for children under 12 months of age, immunocompromised persons, persons with chronic liver disease, and persons who are allergic to the vaccine or a vaccine component. Otherwise, Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended.

Recipients may include the following:

- Persons with close contact (household or sexual) to a person with Hepatitis A.
- Staff and attendees at child care centers where a Hepatitis A case has been diagnosed.
- Persons in certain common source exposure situations (e.g., to patrons of a food establishment with a food handler infected with Hepatitis A).

Persons who have received one dose of Hepatitis A vaccine at least one month before Hepatitis A virus exposure do not need Immune Globulin.

Can Immune Globulin interfere with other injections?

Immune Globulin can interfere with the response to live injected vaccines including measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), and varicella vaccines. Therefore, administration of MMR should be delayed for at least three months and varicella vaccine for at least five months after administration of Immune Globulin. Immune Globulin should not be administered within two weeks after giving MMR or three weeks after vaccination with varicella vaccine unless the benefits of receiving Immune Globulin outweigh the interference with the other vaccines. If Immune Globulin is given during this period, the person should be re-vaccinated with the live vaccine, but not sooner than three months after administration of Immune Globulin.

What are the contraindications of Immune Globulin?

Immune Globulin should not be given to persons with isolated Immunoglobulin A (IgA) deficiency. Such persons have the potential for developing antibodies to IgA and could have anaphylactic reactions to subsequent administration of blood products containing IgA.

Immune Globulin should not be administered to patients who have severe thrombocytopenia (low platelets) or any coagulation disorder (bleeding disorder) that would contraindicate intramuscular injections.

Pregnancy or breastfeeding is not a contraindication to the use of Immune Globulin.