Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Iron by a Drip (Ferric Carboxymaltose)

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Patient Information

Pharmacy / Haematology

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Why read this leaflet?

It explains what the drug is for.

It explains some of the risks and benefits of having it.

What is this drug and what is it used for?

It is a drug we can give you as a drip in your arm. Your doctor may prescribe it if you cannot have other types of iron, like tablets or liquid; or if they have not worked.

It is to treat a health problem called iron deficient anaemia. This is when you have low levels of iron in your blood.

Symptoms of low iron levels can include:

- Tiredness
- Shortness of breath
- Headaches
- Restless legs
- Paler than usual skin
- Noticeable heartbeats (palpitations)

If you want to know more symptoms if low iron levels. Speak to your doctor.

What are the risks?

This list does not contain every possible side effects. If you want more detailed information, please speak to your nurse, doctor or pharmacist.

There are some common side effects that can occur in up to 1 in 10 people. These can include headache, feeling dizzy, red faced and feeling sick.

Less common side effects can affect up to 1 in 100 people. These include:

- Fast heart rate
- Low blood pressure
- Shortness of breath

- Upset stomach
- Itching
- Tiredness

On rare occasions, fluid can leak from the vein into the surrounding area. If this happens, it could cause permanent staining of your skin.

Rarely, the drug can also cause a bad allergic reaction. Signs of this are swelling of the face, mouth and tongue, and trouble breathing.

Tell the doctor or nurse straight away if you:

- Feel unwell before, during or after the treatment.
- Get any discomfort, burning, redness or swelling where the drip enters your body.
- Have any of the side effects talked about in this leaflet.

What are the benefits?

- To fix the low iron levels.
- Any unwanted symptoms you experienced because of low iron levels may be reduced or may stop altogether.

Glossary

- Pharmacy – the department that manages medicines
- Haematology – the medical specialty that deals with disorders of the blood
- Ferric Carboxymaltose – the drug used at WWL that is given by an injection to treat low iron levels.



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