

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Aragam ▼50 mg/ml solution for infusion

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Human normal immunoglobulin (IVIg) 50 g/l*

*corresponding to human protein content of which at least 95% is IgG.

One vial of 20 ml contains: 1 g of protein

One vial of 50 ml contains: 2.5 g of protein

One vial of 100 ml contains: 5 g of protein

One vial of 200 ml contains: 10 g of protein

One vial of 400 ml contains: 20 g of protein

Distribution of IgG subclasses:

IgG1 54-70%

IgG2 29-45%

IgG3 1-4%

IgG4 0-0.5%

IgA max. 6 microgram/ml

For excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for infusion

The solution is clear or slightly opalescent, colourless or slightly yellowish

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Replacement therapy in:

Primary immunodeficiency syndromes such as:

- congenital agammaglobulinemia and hypogammaglobulinemia
- common variable immunodeficiency
- severe combined immunodeficiency
- Wiskott Aldrich syndrome

Myeloma or chronic lymphocytic leukaemia with severe secondary hypogammaglobulinemia and recurrent infections

Children with congenital AIDS and recurrent infections

Immunomodulation

Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), in children or adults at high risk of bleeding or prior to surgery to correct the platelet count.

Guillain Barré syndrome

Kawasaki disease

Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

The dose and dosage regimen is dependent on the indication.

In replacement therapy the dosage may need to be individualised for each patient dependent on the pharmacokinetic and clinical response. The following dosage regimens are given as a guideline.

Replacement therapy in primary immunodeficiency syndromes

The dosage regimen should achieve a trough level of IgG (measured before the next infusion) of at least 4-6 g/l. Three to six months are required after the initiation of therapy for equilibration to occur. The recommended starting dose is 0.4-0.8 g/kg followed by at least 0.2 g/kg every three weeks.

The dose required to achieve a trough level of 6 g/l is of the order of 0.2-0.8 g/kg/month. The dosage interval when steady state has been reached varies from two to four weeks.

Trough levels should be measured in order to adjust the dose and dosage interval.

Replacement therapy in myeloma or chronic lymphocytic leukaemia with severe secondary hypogammaglobulinemia and recurrent infections; replacement therapy in children with AIDS and recurrent infections

The recommended dose is 0.2-0.4 g/kg every three to four weeks.

Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura

For the treatment of an acute episode, 0.8-1g/kg on day one, which may be repeated once within three days, or 0.4 g/kg daily for two to five days. The treatment can be repeated if relapse occurs.

Guillain Barré syndrome

0.4 g/kg/day for 3 to 7 days.

Experience in children is limited.

Kawasaki disease

1.6-2.0 g/kg should be administered in divided doses over two to five days or 2.0 g/kg as a single dose. Patients should receive concomitant treatment with acetylsalicylic acid.

Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation

Human normal immunoglobulin treatment can be used as part of the conditioning regimen and after the transplant.

For the treatment of infections and prophylaxis of graft versus host disease, dosage is individually tailored. The starting dose is normally 0.5 g/kg/week, starting seven days before transplantation and for up to 3 months after transplantation.

In case of persistent lack of antibody production, dosage of 0.5 g/kg/month is recommended until the antibody level returns to normal.

The dosage recommendations are summarised in the following table:

Indication	Dose	Frequency of injections
Replacement therapy in primary immunodeficiency	starting dose: 0.4 - 0.8 g/kg thereafter: 0.2 - 0.8 g/kg	every 2-4 weeks to obtain IgG trough level of at least 4-6 g/l
Replacement therapy in secondary immunodeficiency	0.2 - 0.4 g/kg	every 3-4 weeks to obtain IgG trough level of at least 4-6 g/l
Children with AIDS	0.2 - 0.4 g/kg	every 3-4 weeks
Immunomodulation:		
Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura	0.8 - 1.0 g/kg or 0.4 g/kg/d	on day 1, possibly repeated once within 3 days for 2-5 days
Guillain Barré syndrome	0.4 g/kg/d	for 3-7 days
Kawasaki disease	1.6 – 2 g/kg or 2 g/kg	in several doses for 2 – 5 days in association with acetylsalicylic acid in one dose in association with acetylsalicylic acid
Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation:		
– treatment of infections and prophylaxis of graft versus host disease	0.5 g/kg	every week from seven days before up to 3 months after transplantation
– persistent lack of antibody production	0.5 g/kg	every month until antibody levels return to normal

Method of administration

Human normal immunoglobulin should be infused intravenously at an initial rate of 0.5 ml/kg/hr for 20 minutes. If well tolerated, the rate of administration may gradually be increased to 1.0 ml/kg/hr for 20 minutes and thereafter increased to a maximum of 3.0 ml/kg/hr for the first time users. In adult patients who receive Aragam on a regular base with good tolerance, the infusion rate may be increased to a maximum of 7.0 ml/kg/hr.

For the administration of large quantities of Aragam an Ethyl Vinyl Acetate-container may be used. See section 6.6.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients (see section 4.4). Hypersensitivity to homologous immunoglobulins, especially in very rare cases of IgA deficiency when the patient has antibodies against IgA.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Certain severe adverse drug reactions may be related to the rate of infusion. The recommended infusion rate given under "4.2 Method of administration" must be closely followed. Patients must be closely monitored and carefully observed for any symptoms throughout the infusion period.

Certain adverse reactions may occur more frequently

- in case of high rate of infusion
- in patients with hypo- or agammaglobulinemia with or without IgA deficiency
- in patients who receive human normal immunoglobulin for the first time or, in rare cases, when the human normal immunoglobulin product is switched or when there has been a long interval since the previous infusion.

True hypersensitivity reactions are rare. They can occur in the very seldom cases of IgA deficiency with anti-IgA antibodies.

Rarely, human normal immunoglobulin can induce a fall in blood pressure with an anaphylactic reaction, even in patients who had tolerated previous treatment with human normal immunoglobulin.

Potential complications can often be avoided by ensuring:

- that patients are not sensitive to human normal immunoglobulin by initially injecting the product slowly (0.01 ml/kg/min)
- that patients are carefully monitored for any symptoms throughout the infusion period. In particular, patients naive to human normal immunoglobulin, patients switched from an alternative IVIg product or when there has been a long interval since the previous infusion should be monitored during the first infusion and for the first hour after the first infusion, in order to detect potential adverse signs. All other patients should be observed for at least 20 minutes after administration.
- that the glucose content (1 g/g of IgG = 50 g/l) is taken into account in case of latent diabetes (where transient glycosuria could appear), diabetes, or in patients on a low sugar diet.

There is clinical evidence of an association between IVIg administration and thromboembolic events such as myocardial infarction, stroke, pulmonary embolism and deep vein thromboses which is assumed to be related to a relative increase in blood viscosity through the high influx of immunoglobulin in at-risk patients. Caution should be exercised in prescribing and infusing IVIg in obese patients and in patients with pre-existing risk factors for thrombotic events (such as advanced age, hypertension, diabetes mellitus and a history of vascular disease or thrombotic episodes, patients with acquired or inherited thrombophilic

disorders, patients with prolonged periods of immobilisation, severely hypovolemic patients, patients with diseases which increase blood viscosity).

Cases of acute renal failure have been reported in patients receiving IVIg therapy. In most cases, risk factors have been identified, such as pre-existing renal insufficiency, diabetes mellitus, hypovolemia, overweight, concomitant nephrotoxic medicinal products or age over 65.

In case of renal impairment, IVIg discontinuation should be considered. While these reports of renal dysfunction and acute renal failure have been associated with the use of many of the licensed IVIg products, those containing sucrose as a stabiliser accounted for a disproportionate share of the total number. In patients at risk, the use of IVIg products that do not contain sucrose may be considered.

In patients at risk for acute renal failure or thromboembolic adverse reactions, IVIg products should be administered at the minimum rate of infusion and dose practicable.

In all patients, IVIg administration requires:

- adequate hydration prior to the initiation of the infusion of IVIg
- monitoring of urine output
- monitoring of serum creatinine levels
- avoidance of concomitant use of loop diuretics.

In case of an adverse reaction, either the rate of administration must be reduced or the infusion stopped. The treatment required depends on the nature and severity of the side effect.

In case of shock, standard medical treatment for shock should be implemented.

Standard measures to prevent infections resulting from the use of medicinal products prepared from human blood or plasma include selection of donors, screening of individual donations and plasma pools for specific markers of infection and the inclusion of effective manufacturing steps for the inactivation/removal of viruses. Despite this, when medicinal products prepared from human blood or plasma are administered, the possibility of transmitting infective agents cannot be totally excluded. This also applies to unknown or emerging viruses and other pathogens.

The measures taken are considered effective for enveloped viruses such as HIV, HBV and HCV, and for the non-enveloped virus HAV and parvovirus B19.

There is reassuring clinical experience regarding the lack of hepatitis A or parvovirus B19 transmission with immunoglobulins and it is also assumed that the antibody content makes an important contribution to the viral safety.

It is also strongly recommended that every time that Aragam is administered to a patient, the name and batch number of the product are recorded in order to maintain a link between the patient and the batch of the product.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Live attenuated virus vaccines

Immunoglobulin administration may impair for a period of at least 6 weeks and up to 3 months the efficacy of live attenuated virus vaccines such as measles, rubella, mumps and varicella. After administration of this product, an interval of three months should elapse before vaccination with live attenuated virus vaccines. In the case of measles, this impairment may persist for up to 1 year. Therefore patients receiving measles vaccine should have their antibody status checked.

Interference with serological testing

After infusion of immunoglobulin the transitory rise of the various passively transferred antibodies in the patient's blood may result in misleading positive results in serological testing.

Passive transmission of antibodies to erythrocyte antigens, e.g. A, B and D may interfere with some serological tests for red cell allo-antibodies (e.g. Coombs test), reticulocyte count and haptoglobin.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

The safety of this medicinal product for use in human pregnancy has not been established in controlled clinical trials and therefore should only be given with caution to pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers.

Clinical experience with immunoglobulins suggests that no harmful effects on the course of pregnancy, or on the foetus and the neonate are to be expected.

Immunoglobulins are excreted into the milk and may contribute to the **transfer of** protective antibodies to the neonate.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No effects on ability to drive or use machines have been observed .

4.8 Undesirable effects

Adverse reactions such as chills, headache, fever, vomiting, allergic reactions, nausea, arthralgia, low blood pressure and moderate low back pain may occur occasionally.

Rarely human normal immunoglobulins may cause a sudden fall in blood pressure and, in isolated cases, anaphylactic shock, even when the patient has shown no hypersensitivity to previous administration.

Cases of reversible aseptic meningitis, isolated cases of reversible haemolytic anaemia/haemolysis and rare cases of transient cutaneous reactions have been observed with human normal immunoglobulin.

Increase in serum creatinine level and/or acute renal failure have been observed.

Very rarely: Thromboembolic reactions such as myocardial infarction, stroke, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thromboses.

For safety with respect to transmissible agents, see 4.4.

4.9 Overdose

Overdose may lead to fluid overload and hyperviscosity, particularly in patients at risk, including elderly patients or patients with renal impairment.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: immune sera and immunoglobulins: immunoglobulins, normal human, for intravascular administration, ATC code: J06BA02.

Human normal immunoglobulin contains mainly immunoglobulin G (IgG) with a broad spectrum of antibodies against infectious agents.

Human normal immunoglobulin contains the IgG antibodies present in the normal population. It is usually prepared from pooled plasma from not fewer than 1000 donations. It has a distribution of immunoglobulin G subclasses closely proportional to that in native human plasma. Adequate doses of this medicinal product may restore abnormally low immunoglobulin G levels to the normal range. The mechanism of action in indications other than replacement therapy is not fully elucidated, but includes immunomodulatory effects.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Human normal immunoglobulin is immediately and completely bioavailable in the recipient's circulation after intravenous administration. It is distributed relatively rapidly between plasma and extravascular fluid, after approximately three to five days equilibrium is reached between the intra- and extravascular compartments. Human normal immunoglobulin has a half-life of about 31 days. This half-life may vary from patient to patient, in particular in primary immunodeficiency.

IgG and IgG-complexes are broken down in cells of the reticuloendothelial system.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Immunoglobulins are normal constituents of the human body and hence conventional preclinical toxicity testing in animals is not feasible due to overloading of the circulation in acute toxicity testing and induction of antibodies in repeated dose studies.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Glucose monohydrate, water for injections.

6.2 Incompatibilities

The medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

6.3 Shelf life

Three years.

From a microbiological point of view, the product should be used immediately after puncturing of the rubber stopper. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2°C to 8°C, unless puncturing has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store at 2°C - 8°C (in a refrigerator). Do not freeze. Keep the vial in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

Within its shelf life, the product may be stored at or below 25°C for up to 6 months, without being refrigerated again. If not used during this period it must be discarded. The date when taken to room temperature should be marked on the package.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

20 ml, 50 ml, 100 ml, 200 ml or 400 ml of solution in a vial (Type II glass) with a stopper (bromobutyl) and a seal – pack size of 1.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

The product should be brought to room or body temperature before use. The solution should be clear or slightly opalescent. Do not use solutions that are cloudy or have deposits.

For patients receiving large quantities of Aragam, it is also possible to transfer the contents of several vials to an Ethyl Vinyl Acetate container (Clintec[®] EVA-parenteral nutrition container, Baxter, CE0123). A maximum amount of 800 ml of Aragam can be transferred to such a container. Use an aseptic technique for all the steps. For microbiological reasons, start the infusion as soon as possible after transfer of Aragam into the EVA-container, but not later than three hours after the transfer.

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

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