

Intravenous iron therapy

Appointment (s) _____

Location

Health Sciences Center Clinic E located in the
“Purple Bear Zone”.

Please enter through the 700 William Street entrance and go to clinic E. You will need have your Manitoba health card with you.

Please call (204)926-8006 if you are unable to make your appointment

Potential Side Effects

Although rare, Venofer[®] (IV iron sucrose) may cause side effects. Some of these include;

- ◆ Generalized achiness or cramps
- ◆ Painful IV site
- ◆ Metallic or black licorice taste
- ◆ Swelling in hands, arms or legs
- ◆ Nausea, headache +/- diarrhea

Obstetrical Anemia



BLOOD 
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What does Anemia in pregnancy mean?

Anemia is a condition which occurs when there are not enough red blood cells in the blood. If you have mild anemia you may feel a little tired. If you have a more severe anemia you may feel constantly out of breath, weak, dizzy and you may find it hard to concentrate, and you may feel your heart racing.

Many pregnant women develop mild anemia as the body is making extra blood to support the growing baby. Making this extra blood requires lots of iron, vitamin B12 and folate. Oral iron is hard to absorb which makes it difficult to make more hemoglobin. Your physician, nurse practitioner or midwife will screen you for anemia during your pregnancy. If you have a mild iron deficient anemia oral iron is the frontline therapy to treat this. If this route does not work or your anemia is diagnosed close to your due date you may be a candidate for intravenous iron therapy.

Why do I need intravenous iron?

- ◆ Intravenous iron sucrose is safe to give in the second and third trimester of pregnancy
- ◆ Intravenous iron is administered to expectant moms who have a severe anemia where oral iron is not effective
- ◆ Intravenous iron replaces the iron deficit quickly. Results can be seen as soon as 7 days after administration
- ◆ IV iron is well tolerated and comes with minimal side effects.
- ◆ Patients have a <2% risk of having a serious allergic reaction
- ◆ Replacing iron stores before delivery helps increase the moms hemoglobin, which will reduce the risk for a blood transfusion.

Treatment

You are receiving iron sucrose (Venofer ®) as a treatment for iron deficiency anemia. The intravenous route is an alternative to oral iron. You will fall into one of the following categories;

- ◆ You may not tolerate oral iron
- ◆ You may need oral iron and IV iron to replenish your iron stores before your baby is born
- ◆ You are having a baby and the oral iron you have been taking may not be well absorbed in your body
- ◆ You are iron deficient with a low hemoglobin and have a surgery/delivery date coming soon. To try and avoid a transfusion your iron stores need to be quickly replenished to help your body increase your hemoglobin.

Procedure

Intravenous iron is given in a physician-supervised clinic by a nurse or on a hospital ward after delivery.

The treatment takes 2-3 hours. Your blood pressure, and heart rate will be checked during the procedure.

Please feel free to bring a book to read or an electronic device to watch during your appointment.

Prior to your appointment please use the washroom. Dress comfortably.

The Nurse you will meet will start your intravenous and start the infusion of iron which is dark brown in color.

When the infusion is complete a small bag of normal saline will be infused over 20-30 minutes. When your treatment is complete the intravenous will be removed and you will be discharged to go home.