

PRE-OPERATIVE IRON INFUSION



Imperial College Healthcare
NHS Trust

Preoperative Assessment Unit

St Mary's Hospital, Paddington

020 7886 1047

Why have I received this leaflet?

Your blood tests taken ahead of your operation show that you are anaemic, which means that the haemoglobin levels in your blood are low. Haemoglobin is the red pigment within your blood cells that carries oxygen around your body.

Why do I need an intravenous (i.v.) iron infusion?

A straightforward infusion of iron into one of your veins has been shown to increase your haemoglobin levels before surgery. As a result there is evidence to suggest that you may:

- feel less tired and breathless when exercising.
- be less likely to receive a blood transfusion during or after your operation.
- Suffer fewer complications during or after your operation.

What are the alternatives?

You can take oral iron tablets as an alternative but we have recommended intravenous iron for one of the following reasons:

- There is not enough time before your operation for oral iron tablets to work.
- You have already tried oral iron tablets and you have suffered unpleasant side effects or it has not been effective at increasing your haemoglobin levels.

You do not have to have an I.V. iron infusion if you do not want one.

Where will the iron be given?

The Ambulatory Emergency Care (AEC) Unit, level 2, QEOM Building, St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London W2 1NY

How will I receive the iron infusion?

A small plastic tube (cannula) will be inserted into a vein in your arm. An iron preparation called Ferinject™ will then be administered over 15- 30 minutes. You will be able to leave 30 minutes after your treatment. A nurse will make some routine observations (e.g., blood pressure) during and after your treatment. You do not need to fast before your treatment.

Are there any side-effects or risks?

Most people do not experience any problems, however there are some side effects that you should be aware of:

Common (about 1 in 10 people)	A temporary metallic taste in your mouth whilst you are receiving the injection.
Uncommon (about 1 in 100 people)	Feeling sick (nausea), abdominal pain, headache, hives (an itchy red rash), slightly low blood pressure.
Rare (about 1 in 1000 to 1 in 10 000 people)	Palpitations (a more noticeable or faster than normal heartbeat), very low blood pressure, dizziness and feeling faint.
Very Rare (probably 1 in 100,000 to 1 in a million people)	Swelling of your face, difficulty breathing (severe anaphylactic reaction).

My Appointment Details: