

? ASK THE EXPERTS

Leslie » SCIG is not yet FDA approved to treat CIDP, but some large-scale trials are underway. One trial of CSL Behring's Hizentra has recently been completed, but study results aren't posted yet. Based on those results, CSL Behring should soon be submitting a biologics license application to FDA for the indication; however, I don't believe it will be granted until 2018.

It should be noted that some insurance companies are paying for SCIG to treat CIDP based on current peer-reviewed literature showing its efficacy. So, if the route of administration is initially denied, it can and has been successfully appealed.

Question » Is SCIG Approved by the FDA to Treat CIDP?

Is subcutaneous immune globulin (SCIG) administration approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP)? I've read that clinical outcomes have been fairly good, and it would save insurance companies money.

Question » What Is the Lifespan of IVIG After It Has Been Opened?

What is the lifespan of liquid intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) once it has been opened? I witnessed a product being opened, but then immediately restored in the refrigerator after the procedure was delayed for later use in the same patient.

GAMUNEX-C vial is for single use only. GAMUNEX-C contains no preservative. Use any vial that has been entered promptly. Discard partially used vials. Do not store after entry into bottle."

Most manufacturers can provide extended stability (not sterility) data for product that has been transferred from the vial into a bag if that transfer has occurred using aseptic technique in a USP 797-compliant compounding environment; however, this is for storage prior to administration. So, once the bag has been accessed and hung, the same rules as above apply.

Dr. Riedl » Currently, several medications can be useful to relieve migraines post-infusion. The triptan drugs used for typical migraines are often helpful, but other antimigraine medications may also work well. Other treatment options available include nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, acetaminophen, cyproheptadine and steroids such as prednisone. If headaches recur often, it's worthwhile to try preventive measures such as pre-dosing these medications prior to the infusion, slowing the infusion rate, ensuring aggressive hydration before and after the infusion and possibly switching IG products. ■

Question » How Can Post-Infusion Migraines Be Avoided?

I frequently experience post-infusion migraines. How can I avoid this side effect?

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LESLIE J. VAUGHAN, RPh, is senior vice president of clinical programs at NuFACTOR Specialty Pharmacy.

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MARC RIEDL, MD, MS, is associate professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology, allergy and immunology at the University of California, San Diego.

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