

**Abbie** » According to one of our experts, the greatest risk would be an immediate side effect of a headache. Normally, large doses of IVIG are split over several days for someone with renal impairment. You should definitely watch your father for any signs of kidney problems such as a decrease in frequency or amount of urine or a change in the color of his urine (dark/tea-colored). You should advise the physician who ordered his treatment about the error as soon as possible. His physician may want to run a blood urea nitrogen/creatinine test to check his kidneys. The good news is renal issues are usually reversible with treatment (hydration) and time.

### Question » For Someone with Reduced Kidney Function, Can a Two-Day IVIG Prescription Given Over Only One Day Cause Health Problems?

*My father is 82 years old. He was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis (MG) in May, and failed to respond to normal medical treatment. So, intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) was prescribed, and he responded well with no visible side effects. He is also seeing an improvement in his MG. Most recently, he was prescribed a two-day infusion of IVIG, but when he went for the second day of his infusion, he was told they made a mistake and gave him all of his infusion on the first day. I'm worried this may cause a problem. Can you overdose on IVIG, or can this cause any health issues? He already has reduced kidney function, so I'm concerned.*

### Question » What Are the Guidelines for Vaccines in CVID Patients?

*Should those with common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) receive vaccines such as shingles, meningitis and herpes papillomavirus (Gardasil)?*

**Dr. Harville** » In general, inactivated or extract vaccines are safe to use (this would include Gardasil). However, the effectiveness in patients with CVID remains unknown. Patients with milder disease may get T lymphocytes and antibody protection, whereas those with more severe disease may still receive some T lymphocyte protection.

Live-attenuated vaccines are a different issue. For example, the live polio vaccine has resulted in paralytic disease in patients with antibody deficiencies. Likewise, the shingles vaccine is a live-attenuated

vaccine. For those with milder CVID, the risk for problems may be low, but the risk for those with more severe CVID may be greater. For instance, patients may develop a chickenpox infection, which could lead to quite a number of problems.

Many advise patients with CVID to avoid the chickenpox and shingles vaccines. For patients with milder disease, a good T lymphocyte count and no previous problems, the shingles vaccine could be considered, but only after careful discussion with a plan of treatment if something goes amiss.

» *Have a question?* Email us at [editor@IGLiving.com](mailto:editor@IGLiving.com). Your information will remain confidential unless permission is given.

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