

# Measles Immunoglobulin (Ig)

Vaccination,  
the best protection

April 2018

Measles immunoglobulin (Ig) consists of antibodies extracted from the blood of numerous donors. It protects against measles and its complications. Measles is caused by a virus. There is also a measles vaccine. Immunoglobulin only protects for a few months while the vaccine protects for many years.

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Measles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Measles is spread by contact with secretions from the nose or throat of an infected person.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Redness</li><li>Coughing</li><li>Fever</li><li>Conjunctivitis (red eyes)</li><li>General feeling of illness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ear infection (7 to 9% of cases)</li><li>Pneumonia (1 to 6% of cases)</li><li>Convulsions</li><li>Permanent brain damage (1 case in 1,000 to 2,000)</li><li>Death (1 case in 3,000)</li></ul>

## Measles Ig

Ig is one way of protection against measles and its complications. Ig is recommended for certain people in close contact with someone with measles.

## Symptoms after immunization

Some symptoms may be caused by the Measles Ig (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the Ig may occur by chance (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Measles Ig is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Possible reactions to Ig	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site</li><li>Fever, facial redness, headache, chills or nausea</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.</li><li>Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed.</li><li>See a doctor if symptoms are severe.</li></ul>

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after immunization with Ig because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the immunization. The person giving the Ig will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

**For any questions, contact the person giving the Ig,  
or Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.**