

# Varicella Immunoglobulin (Varlg)

Vaccination,  
the best protection

May 2013

Varlg consists of antibodies extracted from the blood of numerous donors. It protects against varicella and its complications. Varicella also known as chicken pox, is caused by a virus. There is also a varicella vaccine. Varlg only protects for a few months while the vaccine protects for many years.

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
<b>Varicella</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Varicella is spread by contact with secretions from the nose or throat of an infected person.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fever</li><li>Varicella blisters (tiny blisters that form a crust and dry up)</li><li>Itching</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ear infection</li><li>Pneumonia</li><li>An infected varicella blister (e.g. impetigo)</li><li>A serious infection (e.g. flesh eating bacteria)</li><li>Encephalitis (a brain infection)</li><li>Malformations in babies whose mother contracted varicella during pregnancy</li><li>Shingles (15 to 30% of cases)</li><li>Death</li></ul>

## Varlg

Varlg is one way of protection against varicella. Varlg is recommended for people who may have been exposed in significant way to the varicella virus and are at high risk for varicella complications.

## Symptoms after immunization

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

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

Frequency	Possible reactions to Varlg	What to do
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pain at the injection site</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>
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Redness at the injection site</li><li>Headache and skin rash</li><li>Fever, muscle pain, shivering, fatigue, nausea, flushing</li></ul>	

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

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