Package leaflet: Information for the user

Atgam® 50 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion
horse anti-human T lymphocyte immunoglobulin (eATG)

▼This medicine is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. You can help by reporting any side effects you may get. See the end of section 4 for how to report side effects.

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- This leaflet has been written as though the person receiving the medicine is reading it. If this medicine is given to your child, please replace "you" with "your child" throughout.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Atgam is and what it is used for

Atgam is made by injecting human thymus cells into horses. It contains immunoglobulins (antibodies) which attach to and destroy some of the cells of the immune system in your body. It is used to treat a condition called aplastic anaemia. Aplastic anaemia happens when the body's immune system attacks its own cells by mistake and the bone marrow does not make enough red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. When used with other medicines, Atgam helps bone marrow to start making these blood cells again. It may also help avoid the need for blood transfusions. Medicines that suppress the immune system do not cure aplastic anaemia. However, they can relieve its symptoms and reduce complications. These medicines often are used for people who cannot have blood and marrow stem cell transplants or who are waiting for bone marrow transplants. Atgam can be used in children aged two and older as well as in adults.

2. What you need to know before you receive Atgam

Do not receive Atgam

- If you are allergic to the active substance (horse anti-human T lymphocyte immunoglobulin) or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- If you are allergic to any other horse gamma globulin preparation.

Warnings and precautions

Only a doctor experienced in immunosuppressive therapy should treat you with Atgam. The treatment facility should have trained staff with access to supportive medical resources. While on treatment with Atgam patients will be constantly monitored.

Talk to your doctor or nurse before you receive Atgam

- If you think you have an infection or have symptoms that might indicate infection such as fever, sweating, chills, muscle aches, cough, shortness of breath, warm or red or painful skin or sores on your body, diarrhoea or stomach pain (or any other symptoms listed in section 4).
- If you need to be vaccinated. Vaccines can be less effective when given with Atgam. The doctor will decide when it is best for you to receive the vaccine.

When medicines are made from blood or plasma, certain measures are put in place to prevent infections from being passed on to patients. These include:

- Careful selection of blood and plasma donors to make sure those at risk of carrying infections are excluded.
- The testing of each donation and pool of plasma for signs of virus/infections.
- The inclusion of steps in the processing of the blood or plasma to inactivate or remove viruses.

Despite these measures, when medicines prepared from blood or plasma are administered, the possibility of passing on infection cannot be totally excluded. This also applies to any unknown or emerging viruses to other types of infections.

Take special care during treatment with Atgam

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of these serious and potentially life-threatening side effects of Atgam (these symptoms that require immediate contact with your doctor are repeated again in section 4):

- any serious infections: symptoms may include fever, sweating, chills, muscle aches, cough, shortness of breath, warm or red or painful skin or sores on your body, diarrhoea or stomach pain;
- allergic reactions: symptoms may include generalised rash, increased heart rate, difficulty breathing, decreased blood pressure and weakness;
- serum sickness: an allergic reaction that causes fever, aches and pains in the joints, skin rash and swollen lymph glands;
- the top layer of the skin may pull away from its normal position anywhere on the body;
- fever, swelling, chills, increased heart rate, decreased blood pressure and difficulty breathing. These symptoms could suggest so called cytokine release syndrome.

Additional tests

The doctor will perform a blood test before you start taking Atgam, during and after treatment, to determine if there is a low white blood cell count, a low red blood cell count, or a decrease in platelets. If there are severe blood cell abnormalities, treatment with Atgam may be stopped.

To identify if you have a greater risk of severe allergic reactions, skin testing might be performed before treatment. Testing will check for allergy to any of the ingredients of Atgam. Results of the test will help the doctor to decide whether or not Atgam can be given.

Abnormal liver and kidney function test results can occur when patients with aplastic anaemia are treated with Atgam.

Other medicines and Atgam

Tell the doctor if you are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines.

When the dose of corticosteroids and other immunosuppressants is being reduced, some previously hidden reactions to Atgam may appear. You will be carefully observed during the infusion of Atgam to check for this.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Pregnancy

Tell your doctor if you think you may be pregnant.

It is not known whether Atgam affects an unborn child during pregnancy. It is therefore preferable to avoid the use of Atgam during pregnancy.

If you become pregnant while receiving this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

Women of childbearing potential should use effective birth control (contraception) while receiving Atgam and for up to 10 weeks after the last dose. Talk to your doctor about birth control methods that are right for you.

Breast-feeding

Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed.

It is not known whether Atgam passes into breast milk. A risk to the breast-fed child cannot be excluded.

You and your doctor should decide if you should breast-feed or be treated with Atgam.

Driving and using machines

Atgam may influence your ability to drive and use machines. Caution should be taken when driving or using machinery while on this medication.

Atgam contains sodium

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per total dose, that is to say essentially ‘sodium-free’. However, it may be prepared with a solution that contains sodium. Tell your doctor if you are on a low salt (sodium) diet.

3. How Atgam is given

Atgam will be infused into a vein by the doctor or a health care professional. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist for additional information.

Detailed instructions on the preparation and infusion of Atgam are at the end of this leaflet. They are intended for healthcare professionals.

Dosing recommendations are based on body weight (bw).

The recommended total dose is 160 mg/kg bw with additional immunosuppressive therapy.

You may receive Atgam as follows:
- 16 mg/kg bw/day over 10 days or
- 20 mg/kg bw/day over 8 days or
- 40 mg/kg bw/day over 4 days

Before Atgam is given, you may be given other medicines (such as a corticosteroid and antihistamine) to help prevent possible side effects related to the infusion. You may also be given a medicine to reduce fever.

If you receive more Atgam than you should

Since Atgam will be given by a doctor or nurse, it is very unlikely that more than the recommended dose of Atgam will be given. If you think that a larger dose of Atgam than prescribed has been given to you, tell the doctor or nurse immediately.

If you have further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or nurse.

If you forget to use Atgam

Since Atgam will be given to you by your doctor or nurse it is very unlikely that you would not receive the medicine at the proper time. If you think you have not been given Atgam at the appropriate time, tell your doctor or nurse immediately.

If you have further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of these serious and potentially life-threatening side effects of Atgam (these symptoms that require immediate contact with the doctor are mentioned also in section 2 above):

- serious infections (very common): symptoms may include fever, sweating, chills, muscle aches, cough, shortness of breath, warm or red or painful skin or sores on your body, diarrhoea or stomach pain;
- allergic reactions (uncommon): symptoms may include generalised rash, increased heart rate, difficulty breathing, decreased blood pressure and weakness;
- serum sickness (very common): an allergic reaction that causes fever, aches and pains in the joints, skin rash and swollen lymph glands;
- the top layer of the skin pulling away from its normal position anywhere on the body (frequency unknown).

Other side effects

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people
- low white blood cell count
- skin rashes, skin redness, skin itching, skin irritation

- pain, including joints, back, chest, muscle, hands and feet, sides
- fever, chills, headache
- infections (bacterial and viral)
- high or low blood pressure
- diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting
- swelling of the arms or legs
- abnormal liver function tests

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
- breakdown of red blood cells
- enlarged or swollen lymph nodes
- dizziness, fainting, feeling unwell
- seizure
- tingling or numbness in hands or legs
- rapid or slow heart rate
- swelling and pain in the part of the body caused by a local blood clot in the vein
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, temporary stopping of breathing
- hives
- nose bleed
- cough
- fluid in the lungs
- bleeding in stomach or bowels
- sores in the mouth, swelling of the mouth, mouth pain
- increased blood sugar
- kidney abnormalities, kidney failure

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people
- agitation
- infusion site redness, swelling, pain
- swelling around the eyes
- low platelet count

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
- painful swelling of the brain, painful swelling of the blood vessels
- difficulty moving, muscle stiffness
- confusion, tremors
- heart failure
- clot in the blood vessels of the intestine, hole in the intestine (perforation)
- throat spasm, hiccups
- excessive sweating, night sweats
- wound splitting
- lack of development of cells
- loss of strength or energy

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly (see details below). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

United Kingdom
Yellow Card Scheme

Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

5. How to store Atgam

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

The following information is intended for the doctor or nurse who is responsible for the storage, handling, and disposal of Atgam.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the pack after "EXP". The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store the ampoules in a refrigerator (2°C - 8°C). Do not freeze. Keep the ampoule in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

Diluted solution can be kept at room temperature (20°C - 25°C). The solution should be used within 24 hours (including infusion time).

From a microbiological point of view, unless the method of opening/dilution precludes the risk of microbial contamination, open ampoules or medicinal product held in syringes should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and dilution should take place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Atgam contains

- The active substance is horse anti-human T lymphocyte immunoglobulin. Each ampoule of sterile concentrate contains 250 mg of horse anti-human T lymphocyte immunoglobulin.
- The other ingredient(s) are glycine, Water for Injections, sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment), and hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment) (see section 2 "Atgam contains sodium").

What Atgam looks like and contents of the pack

Atgam is a transparent to slightly opalescent, colourless to light pink or light brown sterile aqueous solution. It may develop a slight granular or flaky deposit during storage.

Available in a carton of 5 ampoules each containing 5 ml of sterile concentrate.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

United Kingdom MA Holder

Pfizer Limited
Ramsgate Road,
Sandwich, Kent,
CT13 9NJ
United Kingdom

Manufacturer

Pfizer Service Company BV
Hoge Wei 10
Zaventem, 1930
Belgium

For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder.

This medicine is authorised in the Member States of the European Economic Area and in the United Kingdom under the following names:

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom	Atgam
Italy	Equingam

This leaflet was last revised in
UK 07/2024

Ref: AG 4_0

---------->

The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

Preparation of infusion solution

As Atgam is a gammaglobulin, both the concentrate and diluted solution should be visually inspected for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit. The concentrate and diluted solution are transparent to slightly opalescent, colourless to light pink or light brown and both may develop a slight granular or flocculus deposit during storage.

Atgam (diluted or undiluted) should not be shaken as this could cause excessive foaming and/or the denaturation of the protein. Atgam concentrate should be diluted prior to infusion by inverting the container of the sterile diluent in such a manner that the undiluted Atgam does not come in contact with the air inside.

Add the total daily dose of Atgam to an inverted bottle or bag of one of the following sterile diluents below:
- 0.9% sodium chloride,
- Glucose solution/sodium chloride solution:
    - 50 mg/ml (5%) glucose in 0.45% (4.5 mg/ml) sodium chloride solution,
    - 50 mg/ml (5%) glucose in 0.225% (2.25 mg/ml) sodium chloride solution.

Due to possible precipitation of Atgam, it is not recommended to dilute with glucose solution alone.

The recommended concentration of the diluted Atgam is 1 mg/ml in the chosen diluent. The concentration should not exceed 4 mg/ml of Atgam.

The diluted Atgam solution should be gently rotated or swirled to effect thorough mixing.

Once diluted, for intravenous administration only.

Diluted Atgam should be allowed to reach room temperature (20°C - 25°C) before infusion. Infusion volumes of 250 ml to 500 ml may be used. Atgam should be administered into a high flow central vein through an in-line filter (0.2 - 1.0 micron).

An in-line filter (not supplied) must be used with all infusions of Atgam to prevent the administration of any insoluble material that may develop in the product during storage.

It is recommended that once diluted, the solution be used immediately. Diluted Atgam should be stored at room temperature (20°C - 25°C) if not used immediately. The total time in dilution should not exceed 24 hours (including infusion time).

From a microbiological point of view, unless the method of opening and dilution precludes the risk of microbial contamination, the product should be used immediately.

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.