

IRON FERRIC CARBOXYMALTOSE PROTOCOL

Ferric Carboxymaltose (Injectafer®) was recently approved by the FDA (July 2013) and may have some advantages over Venofer. It is well tolerated and may have less hypotension (< 2%) and allows for a greater iron administration in a single setting. It represents a safe intravenous preparation of iron for those who need iron and do not respond or cannot take oral iron. There is limited experience reported in the United States.¹¹

Side Effects

Anaphylaxis has been reported in 2 of 1775 women receiving Ferric Carboxymaltose. While hypotension was noted less commonly (< 2%), transient hypertension with nausea has been reported in 6% of women.

Indications

Selected patients with the following:

1. Severe antepartum iron deficient anemia non-responsive (or intolerant) to oral iron replacement
2. Anemia in a high-risk setting requiring quick replacement of iron stores:
 - a) placenta previa/accreta
 - b) Jehovah's Witness or other decliners of blood transfusions
3. Severe anemia from obstetric hemorrhage
4. Post-autologous donation with need for rapid replenishment

In indications 2-4, there is additional consideration for recombinant human erythropoietin (EPO) (300 u/kg SQ, once), which combined with Ferric Carboxymaltose gives the most rapid response.

Administration

750 mg IV (mixed with 250mL of normal saline, administered over 15-30 minutes) may be repeated 7 days later with second 750 mg dose; not to exceed cumulative dose of 1500 mg per course.

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