



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Iron Replacement Therapy

Names: INFeD, Ferrlecit, Venofer

Drug type: Iron is a mineral needed by the body to make new red blood cells. Iron also helps red blood cells function.

How iron replacement is given:

- Iron replacement is administered through a vein (intravenous, IV).

Side effects of iron replacement:

Important things to remember about the side effects of iron replacement:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving iron replacement:

- Diarrhea
- General discomfort/not feeling well
- Headache
- Mild nausea or stomach ache
- Mild weakness or tiredness

These are less common side effects for patients receiving iron replacement:

- Abdominal pain
- Cough
- Dizziness or faintness
- Fever/chills
- Flushing/sweating
- Pale or clammy skin
- Swelling in hands and feet
- Vomiting

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101° F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)
- Difficulty breathing, sudden weight gain, swelling, vision changes
- Severe abdominal pain

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not emergency situations. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medications)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24-hour period)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Any signs of bleeding, including black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools or urine
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination
- Swelling of the feet or ankles
- Sudden weight gain
- Bone or joint pain
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms