

# Iron Supplements – Injectable

(iron sucrose, iron gluconate, iron dextran)

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## What it does:

The body uses iron to make red blood cells. These cells contain hemoglobin, which carries oxygen to all the tissues in your body. If your tissues are not getting enough oxygen you may feel tired or short of breath. This is often called iron deficiency anemia or anemia of chronic kidney disease.

Your doctor will check your blood to see if you have enough iron. If you do not, it is important to take iron as prescribed to increase the iron in your blood. If you are taking Erythropoietin or Darbepoetin you may need extra iron, even if you feel well. This is because your body is now making more red blood cells, which requires an adequate amount of iron.

## How it works:

Iron injections are used to boost the body's iron stores, so there is more iron available to make red blood cells.

## How to take it:

These supplements are given to you by intravenous injection. If it is your first time receiving iron dextran, you will probably get a small test dose before you get the rest of the medication. Iron dextran may also be given intramuscularly.

## What to do if you miss a dose:

If you are to come in to the clinic to get your injection, it is important that you come at your regular time and not miss days. If you need to miss a visit, please make arrangements with the clinic nurse or your doctor for your injections.

## Possible side effects:

Common side effects are muscle cramps, nausea and vomiting, rash and low blood pressure. A serious side effect of shock can occur in rare cases. This is why you may receive a test dose initially and why you will be monitored.



Use the space below to write down why you are taking this medication and other notes.

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