

LEASIDE VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC

Monoferric®

What you need to know

Monoferric® is a medicine we give intravenously (IV, through the vein) to raise the iron level in your body. A doctor may prescribe Monoferric® if you have iron deficiency anemia and you are not doing well with your oral iron supplement.

Why is iron important?

Your body needs iron to make red blood cells. If you have very low iron levels, you may develop a low red blood cell count. This is called iron deficiency anemia.

Low iron levels may make you feel dizzy, tired, look pale, have headaches, feel very cold in your hands and legs, and you may have difficulty concentrating. Iron deficiency anemia has also been associated with a higher incidence of psychiatric disorders including anxiety and depression .

What causes low iron levels?

Your iron may be low because of:

- A diet low in foods that contain iron, like fish, meat, and dark greens
- Frequent blood donation
- Bowel Problems
- Pregnancy
- Excessive Bleeding (i.e Menstrual or bowel)

What are the side effects of Monoferric?

It is rare to have serious side effects from Monoferric®.

MINOR side effects include:

- Nausea/vomiting (throwing up)/Constipation
- Diarrhea/abdominal belly) pain
- Swelling at the injection site
- Facial flushing
- Rash, itchiness, or hives
- Back pain

- Risk of extravasation which can cause darkening of local skin. Staining may occur due to leakage of iron in the tissues around the needle. This is not common but the stain can be long lasting or permanent.

FLU-LIKE symptoms include:

- Headache
- Muscle aches/joint
- Sore throat pain
- Fatigue
- A low-grade fever.

If you have flu-like symptoms, you can treat them with over-the-counter (OTC) medicines like Tylenol®. We recommend you do NOT use ibuprofen or NSAIDS

A SERIOUS side effect is an allergic reaction,

- Trouble breathing
- Feeling light-headed or dizzy
- Severe nausea, vomiting, or belly pain
- Chest pain
- Swelling of your throat, face, mouth, tongue, legs, or hands
- Low blood pressure.

How many treatments of Monoferric® will I need?

Monoferric® is typically given as a one or two time dose in the clinic. If you need more treatments, your doctor will discuss this with you.

Where do I get Monoferric®?

Your doctor will give you a prescription for Monoferric®. Many pharmacies do not carry intravenous medicines so you will need to call around to your local pharmacies to confirm that they have it or can order it. It may take up to 1 week to receive an order of Monoferric. For your convenience, the Leaside Village Shoppers Drug Mart below us can order Monoferric® - please provide at least 1 week to receive the order.

Please **fill your prescription a few days before your clinic appointment** and keep it at room temperature. **Do not put it in the fridge.**

If you decide to pick up your prescription on the day of your treatment, please **pick it up at least 30 minutes before your appointment time.**

Do I need to pay for Monoferric®?

The cost of Monoferric® is between \$300 to \$1000, depending on the dosage you need. General costs are \$45-50 per 100 mg.

In most cases, you must pay for Monoferric®. However, for some it is covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program which includes those aged 65 or older or those on ODSP. To qualify a Physician or Nurse Practitioner must prescribe the medication with an appropriate LU code. To qualify you must have the following:

- Iron Deficiency Anemia – AND
- Experience a failure to respond, documented intolerance or contraindication to an adequate trial (i.e at least 4 weeks) of at least one oral iron therapy AND
- No hemochromatosis or Iron Storage Disorder

If you have an insurance/benefits company, ask your provider if your plan covers **Monoferric® (DIN 02477777)**. If it does, show your insurance company's drug card to the pharmacy when dropping off your prescription.

How do I prepare for the treatment?

There are no special instructions to prepare for your treatment. On the day of your appointment, you may eat and drink as you normally would, but avoid smoking or alcohol.

Cost for the treatment?

Infusion of IV Iron is not covered by OHIP but may be reimbursed by private insurance and/or used as a tax deduction. The cost for the infusion (exclusive of medication cost) is **\$150 per infusion** due on check in via credit or debit card only.

What can I expect during my clinic appointment?

Please bring the Monoferric® with you to the clinic.

Expect to be at the clinic for about 3 hours. We will give you Monoferric® by infusion into your vein over 60 minutes. We will watch you during the treatment and for at least 30 minutes after the treatment for any reactions. After your treatment, your doctor may order bloodwork to see if the medicine is working.

Tell your nurse right away if you start to feel unwell or are experiencing any local or systemic reactions while in the clinic. The nurse may need to stop the infusion.

After the infusion, give yourself time to see how the medicine affects you. Avoid driving or operating a machine until you feel you are able and alert.

Consent

By signing the patient understands the information and accepts the inherent risks to IV iron treatment.

Patient Name

Patient Signature

Date