

NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

HIZENTRA®

COMPOSITION

a) Active substance:

Human normal immunoglobulin (SC Ig)

Contains human plasma protein. Purity: at least 98% is immunoglobulin type G (IgG). Distribution of IgG subclades (approximate values): IgG₁ 69%, IgG₂ 26%, IgG₃ 3%, IgG₄ 2%.

The maximum immunoglobulin type A (IgA) content is 50 micrograms/ml.

b) Excipients

L-proline, Polysorbate 80, Water for injections

PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for subcutaneous injection.

One ml solution contains 200 mg of human plasma protein (20% solution) (purity: at least 98% is immunoglobulin type G (IgG)).

The osmolality is approximately 380 mOsmol/kg.

The solution is clear. The colour can vary from pale-yellow to light-brown.

Indications

Replacement therapy in adults and children in:

- congenital agammaglobulinaemia and hypogammaglobulinaemia
- common variable immunodeficiency
- severe combined immunodeficiency and Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
- IgG subclass deficiencies with recurrent infections
- multiple myeloma (MM) or chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) with severe secondary hypogammaglobulinaemia and recurrent infections

Immunomodulatory therapy:

- Hizentra is indicated for the treatment of patients with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculopathy (CIDP) as maintenance therapy to prevent relapse of neuromuscular disability and impairment.

Posology and method of administration

The dose and dose regimen are dependent on the indication.

Posology in adult and Children

The dose may need to be individualised for each patient dependent on the clinical response and serum IgG trough levels.

Replacement therapy

A loading dose of at least 0.2 to 0.5 g/kg (1.0 to 2.5 ml/kg) body weight (bw) may be required. This may need to be divided over several days.

After steady state IgG levels of at least 5 to 6 g/l have been attained, maintenance doses are divided into smaller doses and administered at repeated intervals. The cumulative monthly dose to reach is in the order of 0.4 to 0.8 g/kg (2.0 to 4.0 ml/kg) bw (see "Pharmacokinetic properties").

For patients switching from intravenous treatment the monthly dose is divided into smaller doses and administered at repeated intervals (see "Pharmacokinetic properties").

Dosage may need to be individualized for each patient depending on clinical response and IgG serum levels.

Immunomodulatory therapy in CIDP

The therapy with Hizentra is initiated 1 week after the last IV Ig infusion. The recommended subcutaneous dose is 0.2 to 0.4 g/kg bw per week administered in 1 or 2 sessions over 1 to 2 consecutive days. The initial subcutaneous dose may be a 1:1 conversion from the previous IV Ig dose (calculated as weekly dose). The weekly dose can be divided into smaller doses and administered by desired number of times per week. For every two weeks, double the weekly Hizentra dose.

The dose may need to be adapted to achieve the desired clinical response. Patient's individual clinical response should be the primary consideration in dose adjustment.

Pediatric population

As the posology is given by body weight and adjusted to the clinical outcome of the above mentioned conditions the dosage regimen is the same in the paediatric population as adults.

Hizentra was evaluated in 68 paediatric subjects with PID aged 2 to <12 years and in 57 adolescents aged 12 to <18 years. No paediatric-specific dose requirements were necessary to achieve the desired serum IgG levels.

Hizentra was not evaluated in clinical studies in pediatric patients with CIDP who are under the age of 18.

Geriatric population

As the dose is given by body weight and adjusted to the clinical outcome of the above mentioned conditions, the dose in the geriatric population is not considered to be different from that in subjects 18 to 65 years of age.

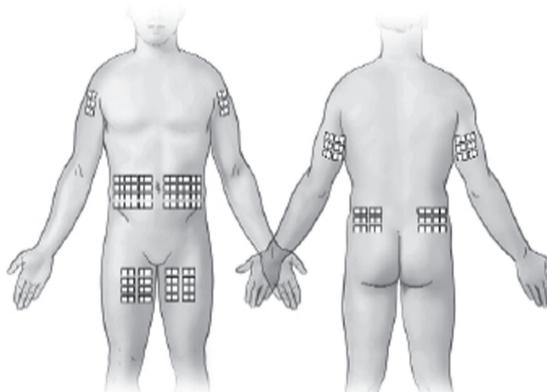
In clinical studies Hizentra was evaluated in 13 subjects with PID >65 years of age and no specific dose adjustments were necessary to achieve the desired serum IgG levels. In clinical studies Hizentra was evaluated in 61 subjects with CIDP >65 years of age and no specific dose adjustments were necessary to achieve the desired clinical outcome.

Method of administration

For subcutaneous use only.

Hizentra may be infused into sites such as the abdomen, thigh, upper arm, and/or lateral hip (see Figure 1). If large doses are given (>50 ml), it may be advisable to administer the dose at multiple sites. There is no limit to the number of infusion sites administered in parallel. More than one infusion device can be used simultaneously. The volume of product infused into a particular site may vary. Infusion sites should be at least 5 cm [2 inches] apart. For subsequent administrations, the infusion sites should be changed.

Figure 1: Possible infusion sites for Hizentra



Infusion rate

Hizentra can be infused using:

- an infusion device or
- by manual push with a syringe.

The recommended initial infusion rate depends on the individual patient's needs:

Device-assisted infusion

The initial infusion rate should not exceed 20 ml/hour/site.

If well-tolerated (see also section "Warnings and precautions for use"), the infusion rate can then be gradually increased to 35 ml/hour/site for the subsequent two infusions. Thereafter, the infusion rate can be further increased as per patient's individual tolerability.

Manual push infusion

The recommended initial infusion rate should not exceed 0.5 ml/min/site (30 ml/hour/site).

If well-tolerated, the infusion rate can be increased up to 2.0 ml/min/site (120 ml/hour/site), based on the healthcare professional judgement and patient's individual tolerability.

Times for infusion by manual push depending on the infusion rate:

	Infusion rate	0.5 ml/min/site (30 ml/hour/site)	1 ml/min/site (60 ml/hour/site)	2 ml/min/site (120 ml/hour/site)
Syringe volume	5 ml	10 min	5 min	2.5 min
	10 ml	20 min	10 min	5 min
	20 ml	40 min	20 min	10 min

It is recommended to use needles gauge 24 or larger (i.e. lower gauge number). Using smaller needles (i.e. higher gauge number) may hinder manual push of Hizentra. Only one infusion site per syringe can be infused. If administration with an additional Hizentra syringe is required, a new sterile injection needle should be used and the infusion site changed.

The recommendations on maximal infusion rate are summarised in the following table:

	Infusion Rate	
	Device-assisted infusions	Manual push infusions
1 st infusion	= 20 ml/hour/site	= 0.5 ml/min/site (30 ml/hour/site)
Subsequent infusions	As per patient tolerability	= 2.0 ml/min/site (120 ml/hour/site)

Home-treatment

Home-treatment must be commenced and initially monitored under the supervision of a healthcare professional.

The patient or the caregiver must be instructed in the use of infusion devices, infusion techniques, how to keep a treatment diary, and the identification of severe adverse reactions and measures to be taken in case such reactions occur.

For patients at risk, administer Hizentra at the minimum dose and infusion rate practicable (see section "Warnings and precautions for use").

Contraindications

Hizentra is contraindicated in patients with a history of severe systemic hypersensitivity or anaphylactic reactions/anaphylaxis to the active substance or to any of the excipients of Hizentra.

Hizentra is contraindicated in patients with hyperprolinæmia type I or II.

Warnings and precautions for use

Route of administration

Hizentra is for subcutaneous use only. If Hizentra is accidentally administered into a blood vessel, patients could develop shock.

The recommended infusion rate should be adhered to. Patients should be closely monitored and carefully observed for any adverse events throughout the infusion period.

Hypersensitivity/Anaphylaxis

Hypersensitivity reactions may occur even in patients who had tolerated previous treatment with human normal immunoglobulin. Severe hypersensitivity or anaphylactic reactions up to shock can particularly occur in patients with known allergies to anti-IgA antibodies. Patients with anti-IgA antibodies, in whom treatment with subcutaneous IgG products remains the only option, should be switched to Hizentra only under medical supervision.

In case of severe hypersensitivity/anaphylactic reactions the administration of Hizentra must be stopped immediately. In case of shock, standard medical treatment should be administered.

Potential complications can often be avoided by ensuring that patients:

- are not sensitive to human normal immunoglobulin, by initially injecting the product slowly;
- are carefully monitored for any symptoms throughout the infusion period. In particular, patients naïve to human normal immunoglobulin, patients switched from an alternative product or when there has been a long interval since the previous infusion, should be monitored during the first infusion and for the first hour after the first infusion, in order to detect potential adverse signs. All other patients should be observed for at least 20 minutes after administration.

Thromboembolism

Arterial and venous thromboembolic events have been associated with the use of IgG. Caution should be taken in patients with preexisting risk factors for thromboembolic events such as:

advanced age, estrogen use, in-dwelling vascular catheters, a history of vascular disease or thrombotic episodes, cardiovascular risk factors (including history of atherosclerosis and/or impaired cardiac output), acquired or inherited hypercoagulable states, prolonged periods of immobilization, severe hypovolaemia, diseases which increase blood viscosity.

Patients should be informed about first symptoms of thromboembolic events such as shortness of breath, chest pain and swelling of a limb, focal neurological deficits, and should be advised to immediately contact their healthcare professional upon onset of symptoms. Patients should be sufficiently hydrated before use of Hizentra.

Acute Meningitis Syndrome (AMS)

AMS has been reported with use of IgG or SC Ig. The syndrome usually begins within several hours to 2 days following IgG treatment. AMS is characterised by the following signs and symptoms: severe headache, neck stiffness, drowsiness, fever, photophobia, nausea, and vomiting. Patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of AMS should receive a thorough neurological examination, including cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) studies, to rule out other causes of meningitis. Discontinuation of IgG treatment may result in remission of AMS within several days without sequelae.

Pathogen safety

Hizentra is made from human plasma. Standard measures to prevent infections resulting from the use of medicinal products prepared from human blood or plasma include selection of donors, screening of individual donations and plasma pools for specific markers of infection and the inclusion of effective manufacturing steps for the inactivation/removal of viruses. Despite this, when medicinal products prepared from human blood or plasma are administered, the possibility of transmitting infective agents cannot be totally excluded. This also applies to unknown or emerging viruses and other pathogens.

The measures taken are considered effective for enveloped viruses such as HIV, HBV and HCV, and for the non-enveloped viruses HAV and parvovirus B19.

There is reassuring clinical experience regarding the lack of hepatitis A or parvovirus B19 transmission with Hizentra, and it is also assumed that the antibody content makes an important contribution to the viral safety.

It is recommended that every time that Hizentra is administered to a patient, the name and batch number of Hizentra are recorded in order to maintain a link between the patient and the batch of the product.

Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions

Live attenuated virus vaccines

IgG administration may impair, for a period of at least 6 weeks and up to 3 months, the efficacy of live attenuated virus vaccines such as measles, rubella, mumps and varicella. After administration of Hizentra, an interval of 3 months should elapse before vaccination with live attenuated virus vaccines. In the case of measles, this impairment may persist for up to 1 year. Therefore patients receiving measles vaccine should have their antibody status checked.

PID

The medication supplies a broad spectrum of opsonizing and neutralizing IgG antibodies against a wide variety of bacterial and viral agents. In immunodeficiency, adequate doses of Hizentra may restore abnormally low IgG antibody levels to the normal range and thus help against infections.

The mechanism of action in CIDP is not fully understood, but may include immunomodulatory effects.

Pharmacodynamic properties

The safety and efficacy of Hizentra in patients has been assessed in 7 phase III studies in patients with PID, 2 phase IV studies with PID, and 1 phase III study in patients with CIDP including 1 extension study.

PI

In the European pivotal prospective open label, single arm and multicentre study, a total of 51 subjects with PID aged between 3 and 60 years old were treated with Hizentra for up to 41 weeks. The mean dose administered each week was 119 mg/kg bw. Sustained IgG trough levels with mean concentrations of 17.99–8.25 g/l were thereby achieved throughout the treatment period. Subjects received in total 1831 weekly Hizentra infusions.

In the subsequent extension study a total of 40 patients treated previously in the pivotal study (aged 4 to 52 years) were enrolled and treated up to 46 months under the same dosing. Patients received a total of 5405 weekly Hizentra infusions.

Over the entire treatment period constant IgG trough levels were achieved with average concentrations of 7.5 to 8.5 g/l, confirming the results of the pivotal study.

The rate of acute serious bacterial infections (ASBIs) was 0.0478 per patient per year, with an upper 99% confidence interval (CI) of 0.125.

In the US prospective open label, single arm and multicentre study, a total of 49 subjects with PID aged between 5 and 72 years old were treated with Hizentra for up to 15 months. The mean dose administered each week was 228 mg/kg bw. Sustained IgG trough levels with a mean concentration of 12.93 g/l were thereby achieved throughout the treatment period. Subjects received in total 2264 weekly Hizentra infusions.

In the subsequent US extension study, a total of 21 previously treated patients (aged 5 to 60 years) were enrolled and treated up to 67 weeks at the same dosing. Patients received a total of 1735 weekly Hizentra infusions.

Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Data from prospective clinical trials on the use of human normal immunoglobulin in pregnant women is limited. Therefore, Hizentra should only be given with caution to pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. Clinical experience with IgG suggests however that no harmful effects on the course of pregnancy, or on the foetus or the neonate are to be expected.

Continued treatment of the pregnant woman ensures a passive immunity for the neonate.

Lactation

During breast-feeding IgG are excreted into the milk and may contribute to the transfer of protective antibodies to the neonate.

Fertility

Based on clinical experience with IgG it is suggested that no harmful effects on fertility are to be expected.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Hizentra has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

In view of the fact that clinical trials are conducted under controlled conditions, adverse drug reaction (ADR) rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug product may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice.

Table 1: Adverse Drug Reactions (ADR) Associated with Hizentra Obtained from Clinical Studies and Post-marketing Surveillance, Reporting Rate per Patient or per Infusion

