

19 Immunoglobulin

■ 19.1 Introduction

■ 19.1.1 Information on specific immunoglobulins is provided in the chapters on particular vaccines.

■ 19.1.2 All immunoglobulins are prepared from the blood of donors who are negative for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and for antibody to human immunodeficiency viruses types 1 and 2 (HIV), and to hepatitis C virus (HCV). The materials are treated to inactivate viruses.

■ 19.2 Human Normal Immunoglobulin (HNIG)

■ 19.2.1 This is prepared from the pooled plasma of blood donors and contains antibody to measles, varicella, hepatitis A and other viruses which are currently prevalent in the population. Immunoglobulin prepared by Bio Products Laboratory, and supplied as below, is available in 1.7ml ampoules containing 250mg, and 5ml vials containing 750mg. It is given by intramuscular injection. It must be stored at 0-4°C and the expiry date on the packet must be observed. It has a shelf life of three years when correctly stored. Unused portions of a vial must be discarded.

■ 19.2.2 Recommendations for the use of HNIG for prophylaxis of measles and hepatitis A are given in 22.9.1 and 17.9 respectively. It is not recommended for prevention of mumps (22.9.2) or rubella (22.9.3).

■ 19.2.3 HNIG may interfere with the immune response to live virus vaccines which should therefore be given at least three weeks before or three months after an injection of HNIG. This does not apply to yellow fever vaccine since HNIG obtained from donors in the UK is unlikely to contain antibody to this virus. For travellers going abroad this interval may not be possible. In the case of live polio vaccine, this is likely to be a booster dose for which the possible inhibiting effect of HNIG is less important.

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■ 19.3 Supplies

Central Public Health Laboratory Tel. 0181-200 6868.
Public Health Laboratories, England and Wales.
Blood Transfusion Service, Scotland (see 18.13).
Bio Products Laboratory Tel. 0181-905 1818.
Northern Ireland: Public Health Laboratory, Belfast City Hospital,
Tel. 01232 329241.
Immuno. Tel. 01732 458101 (Gammabulin).
Pharmacia and Upjohn Ltd. Tel. 01908 661101(Kabiglobulin).

■ 19.4 Specific Immunoglobulins

These are available for tetanus, hepatitis B, rabies and varicella-zoster. They are prepared from the pooled plasma of blood donors who have a recent history of infection or immunisation, or who on screening are found to have suitably high titres of antibody. Recommendations for their use are given in the relevant chapters.

■ 19.5 Supplies

Anti-tetanus immunoglobulin

Regional Blood Transfusion Centres.
Immuno (Tetabulin) Tel. 01732 458101.
Scotland: Blood Transfusion Service (see 18.13 for telephone numbers).
Northern Ireland: Blood Transfusion Service Tel. 01232 321414 (issued via hospital pharmacies).
Bio Products Laboratory Tel 0181 905 1818.

Anti-hepatitis B immunoglobulin

CDSC Tel. 0181-200 6868.
Public Health Laboratories, England and Wales.
Scotland: Blood Transfusion Service (see 18.13 for telephone numbers).
Northern Ireland: Public Health Laboratory, Belfast City Hospital, Tel. 01232 329241.
Belfast Tel. 01232 894628.
Bio Products Laboratory Tel 0181 905 1818.

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Anti-rabies immunoglobulin

Central Public Health Laboratory (Virus Reference Laboratory) Tel. 0181-200 4400.

Northern Ireland: Public Health Laboratory, Belfast City Hospital, Tel. 01232 329241.

Scotland: Blood Transfusion Service (see 18.13 for telephone numbers).
Bio Products Laboratory 0181 905 1818.

Anti-Varicella-zoster immunoglobulin

Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre.
Tel. 0181-200 6868.

Public Health Laboratories, England and Wales.

Bio Products Laboratory Tel. 0181 905 1818.

Northern Ireland: Public Health Laboratory, Belfast City Hospital Tel. 01232 329241.

Scotland: Blood Transfusion Service (see 18.13 for telephone numbers).