

### Can Prolonged Use of IVIG Cause Large Granulocyte Lymphatic Leukemia?

I have chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, and I have been treated with intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) for almost two years. I now have an elevated lymphocyte count at 74 percent and a neutropenia count of 1.04. My doctors are thinking it may be large granulocyte lymphatic leukemia, and I am wondering if this could be caused by my prolonged use of IVIG. Is that possible?

**Abbie:** I spoke with Leslie Vaughan, RPh, CSP, IgCP, and Michelle Greer, RN, IgCN, chief operations officer and executive vice president of sales, respectively, at Nufactor, a specialty infusion company, and they said they are unable to find anything that would support IVIG as the cause of elevated lymphocytes. They did say there is information on transient neutropenia following high-dose IVIG, but it generally resolves within 14 days of IVIG administration.

### What Are the Pros and Cons of Ports for IG Treatment?

I was diagnosed with an IgG deficiency, and it was suggested I begin treatment with immune globulin (IG) via a port. I am wondering if you have any articles on the pros and cons of this, or anything else that could be beneficial?

**Abbie:** Before you make any decision about having a port, it's crucial to discuss your treatment plan thoroughly with your treating physician. He or she can provide personalized guidance based on your medical history, specific condition and treatment needs.

There are advantages and disadvantages of having a port. Ports eliminate the need for multiple needle sticks, which can be particularly beneficial for individuals who experience anxiety or discomfort from frequent venous access. For patients with compromised peripheral veins due to repeated needle sticks or medications, a port provides a reliable and easily accessible route for administering medications and fluids. Ports can also streamline the administration of IG therapy, potentially reducing the time needed for infusions and improving overall treatment experience.

However, ports pose a risk of infection since they provide a direct conduit for organisms into the bloodstream. Proper sterile techniques must be followed during port access to minimize this risk. Ports require a surgical procedure for placement, which carries inherent risks and may cause scarring. Additionally, the vein into which the port is placed may be sacrificed, limiting future venous access. Ports can also lead to complications such as thrombosis and infection, requiring prompt medical attention and possibly hospitalization.

Ultimately, the decision to use a port for IG therapy is a personal one that should be made in consultation with your physician.

» **Have a question?** Email us at [editor@IGLiving.com](mailto:editor@IGLiving.com).  
Your information will remain confidential unless permission is given.



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