

Subcutaneous immunoglobulin

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Immunoglobulin replacement is the mainstay of treatment for primary immunodeficiency resulting in hypogammaglobulinaemia. Immunoglobulin is also used for acquired hypogammaglobulinaemia and for immunomodulation in a range of conditions. Historically, immunoglobulin has been provided via the intravenous route. However, in recent years the provision of immunoglobulin via the subcutaneous route has become more common. Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) is safe, effective and has been demonstrated to provide patients with good quality of life. It is easy to administer and patients and their families can be taught a range of different techniques to use at home. Infusions can be provided via a range of mechanical or electronic pumps, or can be administered via a manual push. Dosing can vary from multiple times per week to once every second week (in small infants). Patients report few side effects and often tolerate large volumes of SCIg administered at one site. New developments include the development of SCIg with hyaluronic acid and the increasing use of the subcutaneous route of administration for immunomodulation, not just replacement dosing.