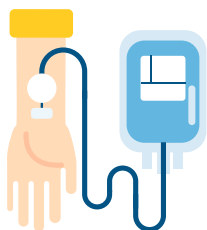


A Gout Patient's Guide to Infusion

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If you have gout, addressing your disease requires lowering your levels of uric acid. You can accomplish this through treatment, in conjunction with lifestyle changes.

Infusion of uric-acid-lowering medication is one of several treatment options your health care provider may prescribe. You shouldn't be alarmed by this recommendation. Rather, you should look forward to targeted treatment for gout patients like you in a health care setting designated to administer this specific type of treatment. Knowing the answers to a few common questions about infusions may ease your concerns.



How does infusion work?

As opposed to taking medication orally, infused medicines are administered through a small tube called a catheter, or IV, that is placed in your hand or arm. Completing an infusion treatment usually takes a couple hours because the medicine is very slowly put directly into your bloodstream. You may need to stay at the center for a brief observation period afterward to be monitored for side effects.



Aren't infusions just for cancer patients?

While infusions are often associated with chemotherapy, they are also commonly used to treat many other conditions and diseases. People with gout, migraines and chronic pain are among those who can benefit from infusion therapy.



Do I have to go to the hospital for an infusion?

Until the 1980s, getting an infusion meant a hospital stay. But that's no longer true. Office-based infusion suites, free-standing infusion centers and hospital outpatient departments allow gout patients to come in for just their infusion, then go home after a brief monitoring period.



Do all gout patients need infusion treatments?

While not all gout patients need infusions, they are common and effective for a subset of patients, specifically those who are not responding well to other oral treatments aimed at lowering uric acid. Having open, honest conversations with your health care team will help determine the best treatment plan for you.



Do infusions hurt?

Getting an infusion requires placing an IV, which can cause brief discomfort, but infusions aren't painful. If your medication can cause side effects during infusion, you may be given other medications to help reduce or avoid symptoms. It's important to tell your health care provider right away if you have discomfort or any other symptoms during your infusion so they can help.

Many infusion centers offer amenities such as snacks, reclining infusion chairs, and blankets to make the infusion process more comfortable.

Don't be afraid to ask your health care provider any other questions that you may have about receiving infusions to help manage your gout. Infusions can be an important part of a comprehensive treatment and lifestyle plan that keeps your gout under control.



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