

# Tetanus Immune Globulin

**Vaccines have saved more lives in Canada in the last 60 years than any other medical intervention. They help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.**

## What is tetanus immune globulin?

Tetanus immune globulin has large amounts of tetanus antibodies taken from donated human blood. Antibodies are proteins that a person's immune system makes to fight bacteria and viruses.

Tetanus immune globulin provides immediate, short-term protection against the bacteria that can cause tetanus ('lockjaw'). Tetanus immune globulin works best when it is given as soon as possible after disease exposure.

It can prevent infection or make the disease less severe.

## Is tetanus immune globulin safe?

Yes, tetanus immune globulin is a very safe human blood product. Canadian Blood Services screens and tests every blood donation. Since blood screening and testing began, there have been no reports of blood-borne infections like HIV or hepatitis B in persons receiving tetanus immune globulin.

## Who should get tetanus immune globulin?

Tetanus immune globulin is used to manage wounds contaminated with dirt, soil or feces, puncture wounds and trauma wounds (e.g., burns, frostbite, crushing wounds) in the following situations:

- People of all ages who have received less than 3 doses of a tetanus vaccine in the past or their tetanus immunization status is unknown.
- Those who are immunocompromised (e.g., HIV) following any major or unclear wound.
- A dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine may be given at the same time as tetanus immune globulin. More doses of a tetanus-containing vaccine may be given later to provide full, long-term protection against tetanus. Contact your doctor, nurse practitioner or public health nurse for information.

## Who should not get tetanus immune globulin?

- People who had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of an immune globulin product, or any components of the product.
- **Note: Immune globulin can interfere with some vaccines.** Speak with a public health nurse, nurse practitioner or physician if you have been vaccinated for measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, shingles or other live vaccine within the past 14 days or if you receive these vaccines in the future.

## What are common reactions to tetanus immune globulin?

- Temporary pain, soreness and tenderness at the injection site.
- Fever, rash and itching skin.
- Rarely, blood clots may occur after the administration of an immune globulin product.
- Only treat a fever (at least 6 to 8 hours after immunization) if your child is uncomfortable, refusing fluids and not sleeping.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol, Temptra) may be given for fever or soreness. ASA (Aspirin) must NOT be given to anyone younger than 18 years old because of the risk of Reye syndrome.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting tetanus immune globulin because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. **If this happens after you leave the clinic, call 911 or the local emergency number.** This reaction can be treated, and occurs in less than one in one million people who get tetanus immune globulin.

### **What does tetanus immune globulin contain?**

**HYPERTET<sup>®</sup>** contains human tetanus hyperimmune globulin and glycine. Preservative-free. The prefilled syringe has a rubber needle shield and stopper.

### **Who should you report reactions to?**

- Report any adverse or unexpected reactions to your local public health nurse, your doctor, or nurse practitioner as soon as possible.

### **Talk to a public health nurse:**

- If you have questions or concerns about you or your child's reaction to an immunization.
- If you or your child had to go to a doctor, a hospital or to a health centre with a symptom that might be related to immunization.

### **Mature Minor Consent**

It is recommended that parents/guardians discuss consent for treatment with their children. Efforts are first made to get parental/guardian consent for treatment. However, children at least 13 years of age up to and including 17 years of age, who are able to understand the benefits and possible reactions for each product and the risks of not getting treatment, can legally consent to or refuse treatment in Saskatchewan by providing mature minor informed consent to a healthcare provider.

Provincial immunization fact sheets are available at [www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize).

**For more information contact your local public health office, your physician, nurse practitioner, HealthLine online or by calling 811.**

Reference: HYPERTET<sup>®</sup> product monograph (2021).