

# Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin

Vaccine	Dosage/Route of Administration
<b>Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (VariZIG)</b>  <i>Cangene Corporation</i>	<p>The recommended dose is 125 IU/10 kg of body weight, up to a maximum of 625 IU (five vials) and should be administered intramuscularly (IM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62.5 IU (0.5 vial) for patients weighing <math>\leq 2.0</math> kg</li> <li>125 IU (one vial) for patients weighing 2.1–10.0 kg</li> </ul>

## VariZIG Recommendations:

- VariZIG is recommended for post-exposure prophylaxis for persons exposed to varicella or herpes zoster who are at increased risk for severe disease, lack evidence of immunity to varicella, and have a contraindication to varicella vaccine. The CDC recommends the following patient groups receive VariZIG:
  - Immunocompromised patients without evidence of immunity.
  - Newborn infants whose mothers have signs and symptoms of varicella around the time of delivery (i.e., 5 days before to 2 days after).
  - Hospitalized premature infants born at  $\geq 28$  weeks of gestation whose mothers do not have evidence of immunity to varicella.
  - Hospitalized premature infants born at  $< 28$  weeks of gestation or who weigh  $\leq 1,000$  g at birth, regardless of their mothers' evidence of immunity to varicella.
  - Pregnant women without evidence of immunity.
- VariZIG should be administered as soon as possible (ideally within 96 hours) following exposure to varicella zoster virus for greatest effectiveness and within 10 days.
- The decision to administer varicella immune globulin depends on the following 3 factors:
  - 1) whether the patient lacks evidence of immunity to varicella
  - 2) whether the exposure is likely to result in infection
  - 3) whether the patient is at greater risk for varicella complications than the general public
- For high-risk patients who have additional exposures to varicella-zoster virus  $\geq 3$  weeks after initial varicella immune globulin administration, another dose should be considered.
- Patients who become eligible for vaccination should receive varicella vaccine  $\geq 5$  months after VariZIG administration.

## Contraindications

- History of anaphylactic or severe systemic reactions to human globulins.
- IgA-deficient patients with antibodies against IgA and history of hypersensitivity.

## Precautions

- Observe for thrombotic events in persons with history of atherosclerosis, multiple cardiovascular risk factors, advanced age, impaired cardiac output, etc.

## Adverse Reactions

- Pain at injection site
- Headache

## How to Obtain VariZIG

VariZIG can be ordered from:

- FFF Enterprises  
Temecula, California  
800-843-7477  
[www.fffenterprises.com](http://www.fffenterprises.com)
- ASD Healthcare  
Frisco, TX  
800-746-6273  
[www.asdhealthcare.com](http://www.asdhealthcare.com)

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