
This leaflet is for patients with hereditary angioedema

You have a genetic condition known as hereditary angioedema [HAE]) or C1 inhibitor (C1 INH) deficiency. A deficiency in one of the chemicals in the body called C1 INH results in swellings which can occur spontaneously or be caused by trauma, certain drugs or emotional stress. Swelling affecting the arms or legs and stomach pain can be unpleasant, however if the tongue or throat are affected, the swelling can be life-threatening.

What is icatibant (also known as Firazyr)?

Icatibant is an alternative treatment to C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate that can be given by you as a home treatment.

How is icatibant given?

Icatibant comes in a pre-filled syringe and is given by injection under the skin of your stomach. As icatibant does not need to be given into a vein, patients can be trained to give it to themselves at home.

How does icatibant work?

Icatibant is a drug that blocks the action of a chemical in the body called bradykinin which is a substance that is important in causing and prolonging the swelling triggered in HAE.

Why am I being prescribed icatibant?

You have suffered swelling of the stomach, throat or tongue and needed treatment in hospital with C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate otherwise known as Berinert. You are keen to have home therapy and are happy to undergo training to give yourself an injection when you suffer an attack.

When should I use icatibant?

When you have an attack affecting the stomach or have swelling starting in the face.

To ensure safety, you will also need to keep a supply of C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate at home until we are confident that the icatibant works well for your swellings.

What support do I need?

You should always contact the emergency services if you suffer life-threatening swelling (throat swelling) prior to self-administering icatibant. Sometimes further doses or treatment with C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate are needed so it is important to get urgent medical attention. You should always have a family member or friend with you when you are administering icatibant as you need support and someone to monitor you in case you do not improve.
