

Brand Name: Thymoglobulin®
Common Name: Antithymocyte Globulin



What is it?

Thymoglobulin® is a very powerful anti-rejection drug. It is often used with patients who have previously rejected a kidney transplant and are receiving their second transplant, or with patients whose new kidney is slow to start working. It can also be used to treat an acute rejection episode.

How should it be taken?

This medication is given only intravenously, once a day for 4 to 5 days. The physician will prescribe a dose based on several factors: your weight, platelet count, and white blood cell count. If you are taking other transplant medications, your physician may discontinue or reduce the dosage of some drugs while you are taking Thymoglobulin®.

To reduce some of the side effects, your physician will order Tylenol® and Benadryl® to be given to you before your dose of Thymoglobulin®.

What are the side effects? How can I manage them?

You may experience some of the following side effects:

- difficulty breathing
- fever
- chills
- nausea
- rash
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- muscle aches
- infection or pain during infusion

If you experience these side effects report them to your nurse as soon as possible. Your platelet and blood cell levels may also decrease. These levels will be monitored every day while you are taking this drug through routine bloodwork.

