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Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG)

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From *The MS Information Sourcebook*, produced by the National MS Society.

Immunoglobulins are antibody proteins that are secreted by the white blood cells called B-lymphocytes and by plasma cells in response to the presence of a substance foreign to the body. This foreign substance is called an antigen.

Intravenous immunoglobulin G (IVIG) is a pooled human immunoglobulin G (IgG) that is presumed to modulate the immune system. It has proven useful in the treatment of a number of autoimmune diseases, but its role in the treatment of MS remains uncertain. Early clinical trials produced variable results. A recent two-year study in Austria of patients with relapsing-remitting MS was more promising. It showed a small but significant improvement on the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS). A second study in Israel showed a reduction in exacerbation rates, but there was no effect on lesions shown on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Another study in 1998 showed fewer enhancing lesions on MRI in treated patients with relapsing-remitting MS than in the placebo group.

At the present time, the evidence for a possible role of IVIG in the treatment of MS is limited to relapsing-remitting MS. Clinical trials of IVIG in secondary progressive MS are currently underway in Europe and Canada

See also...

Sourcebook

- [Clinical Trials](#)
- [Clinical Trial Participation](#)
- [Expanded Disability Status Scale](#)
- [Immunoglobulins](#)

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FAQs | GLOSSARY of MS terms