ATGAM (antithymocyte immunoglobulin - equine)

What does it do?

Atgam® is used to treat transplant rejection. It is also sometimes used to treat blood conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have heart, blood pressure or blood problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any products made from horse proteins.
- *Atgam*® affects your immune system. Before you start and while you are using it, check with your doctor what vaccines you might need. You should not have a live vaccine while using it.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How is it given?

Atgam® is given as a slow infusion into a vein over at least 4 hours.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing Seizures Change in heartbeat Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding	Tell your doctor immediately
Headache Increased blood pressure	Tell your doctor
Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You may experience flu-like symptoms during treatment with *Atgam*®. This is common and usually resolves after the first few doses. Discuss with your doctor.