iPERSiST
Motivated and Thriving

Treating Alpha-1 With **Augmentation Therapy**



Augmentation therapy, also known as *replacement therapy*, is one of the primary treatment options for Alpha-1 patients. Augmentation therapy is a long-term treatment that can increase the amount of Alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) floating in the lungs and blood. It is an FDA-approved therapy for Alpha-1 and generally requires a weekly infusion of AAT collected from the plasma (the liquid part of blood) of healthy donors.

What is the goal of augmentation therapy?

The goal of augmentation therapy is to increase the level of AAT in your lungs, reducing the rate of lung function decline and protecting the lungs from further damage. Augmentation therapy cannot reverse the damage that has already happened, nor can it return lung function that has been lost; it is not a cure, but it can help slow or stop more damage to the lungs.

Everyone loses lung function during their adult life, but individuals with Alpha-1 and lung disease lose their lung function at a faster rate. If augmentation therapy is effective, it should slow this increased rate of decline, regardless of the severity of the underlying lung disease.

Benefits of augmentation therapy

Augmentation therapy involves restoring plasma and local tissue levels of AAT to an acceptable amount. While every patient might not be appropriate for augmentation therapy, disease progression can be slowed and outcomes improved.

Augmentation therapy offers plenty of benefits for the right patients:

- **Reduces loss of lung density and function over time**
- **May improve quality of life**
- **Reduces frequency and duration of flare-ups**
- **Reduces risk of mortality**

Advanced Infusion Care®

iPERSiST
Motivated and Thriving

What can I expect during my regular augmentation therapy infusions?

Here is the typical process for an augmentation therapy infusion session:

Step 1: Nurse checks your vitals and asks key questions

First, your nurse will check your pulse, oxygen level, blood pressure, and respiration rate. He/she will also ask questions regarding your bowel movements, urinary problems, possible neurological problems, lung problems, and other conditions. Your nurse will ask about any limitations you have that interfere with your daily activities. He/she will also check if you are currently on any other medications, and if you are experiencing any side effects from these medications.

Step 2: Infusion

Your nurse will explain the process for your Alpha-1 augmentation therapy as he/she prepares for your infusion. He/she will then connect the Alpha-1 therapy's tubing to your intravenous site and start the infusion. Your nurse will observe you during your infusion, which will last 15 to 30 minutes on average, to assess any side effects you may experience. He/she will then complete a blood pressure, pulse, and temperature check, while noting your respiration and oxygen levels at the end of your infusion.

Step 3: Finish up and schedule your next infusion

After your infusion is complete, your nurse will ask to schedule your next infusion visit. Infusions are typically performed on a weekly basis.

What are the side effects of augmentation therapy?

Most people who receive augmentation therapy have mild or no side effects. Some side effects are more common, while others are less common.

Most common side effects: Fatigue or flu-like symptoms are the most common, which typically last for up to 24 hours after an infusion. Slower infusion rates can lessen or prevent these symptoms.

Less common side effects: Mild allergic reactions (rash or hives, itching, tightness in the chest, altered breathing)

- Taking an antihistamine, such as BENADRYL®, before infusion can minimize the risk of allergic reaction
- In very rare cases, side effects may be severe enough that your healthcare professional may stop augmentation therapy entirely

Please be aware that augmentation therapy has not been effective for patients with liver disease caused by Alpha-1.

When should I contact my nurse or physician?

You should immediately contact your nurse or physician if there is a change in your condition, including any side effects from your infusion. You may also contact him/her if you have any questions about your infusion of your Alpha-1 augmentation therapy.

BENADRYL® is a trademark of JOHNSON & JOHNSON.