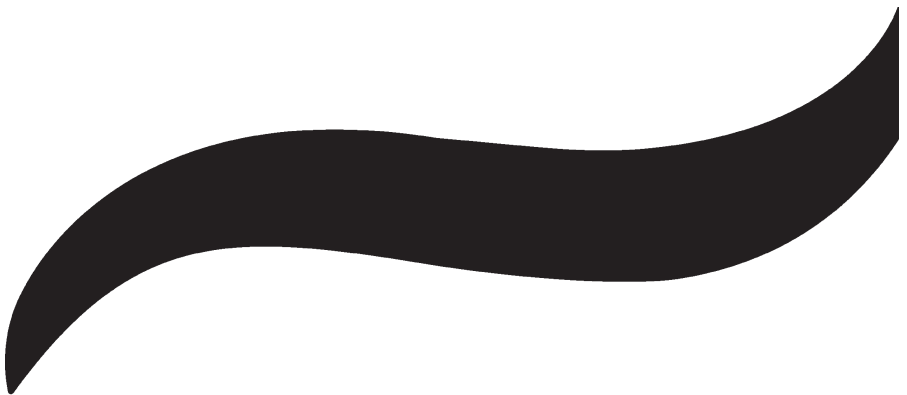




# IgA Deficiency

Information for patients  
Paediatrics Department



## **WHAT IS IgA DEFICIENCY**

This is actually quite a common condition, occurring in approximately 1 in 700 people, and most people are not even aware they have it!

IgA is the shorthand name for Immunoglobulin type A. It is one type of antibody your body produces, in response to infection.

The reason most people don't know they have this condition is because they can still produce normal type G and M antibodies, plus your immune system still has a other mechanisms for fighting infection.

It is possible however that you are more susceptible to common infections for example colds, coughs, diarrhea.

There is no treatment for this condition. It is something you will have your whole life.

## **HAVING THIS CONDITION**

There is one particular issue with having this condition where you may need to be treated differently. People with IgA deficiency can sometimes have allergic reactions to blood transfusions. Thankfully severe reactions are extremely rare. Nonetheless, if you ever need a blood transfusion you should inform the doctors looking after you that you have IgA deficiency. Since blood transfusions are usually done in emergency situations, you may wish to think about who else might need to know about this condition.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The Lanarkshire blood transfusion lab will be informed of your condition and a note will be added to your electronic record.



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