Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

About Your Intragluteal Injection

This information explains a change in the way we give intragluteal intramuscular (IM) injections (shots). An intragluteal IM injection is when a medication is injected into a muscle in your buttocks (butt).

An intragluteal IM injection is a way to give medication directly into a deep muscle in your buttock. Your healthcare provider will explain which medication you're getting and why.

Your nurse will give you the injection in the large muscle where your leg and hip bones meet (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Injection site

This is called your ventrogluteal site. This area has thick tissue without many nerves around it. This reduces the risk of nerve damage. It makes it the safest place to get an injection in your glute area. You may feel some pain or tenderness after the injection. This is normal and expected.

When to Call Your Healthcare Provider

Call your healthcare provider if:

- The injection site will not stop bleeding.
- You have very bad pain at the injection site.
- You have a fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.
- You have signs of an allergic reaction at the injection site or anywhere on your body. Signs of an allergic reaction include:
  - Swelling
  - Redness
  - Itching
  - A rash

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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