

INFORMATION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

I have advised that you have a condition called CIDP (chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy).

This might present in many, many different ways.

I will give you a printout of CIDP and the treatment options available.

Of course with any treatment there is some associated risk but the benefits in your condition far outweigh any risks attached to the treatment.

If your condition is not treated then it is highly likely that you will continue to deteriorate and experience more symptoms. As symptoms deteriorate it is more difficult to treat and often there is permanent nerve damage that cannot be repaired.

The treatment that I recommend is intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg). IVIg has a very low side effect profile but there are some remote risks that can occur particularly during the induction course of treatment.

Most patients tolerate the 5-day induction course reasonably well. However some patients may experience headaches after day 3 which are improved by slowing down the rate of the intravenous infusion and increasing the fluid intake, usually intravenously. On rare occasions (<1%) an inflammation of the brain may occur as a consequence of IVIg. This is extremely rare and I've seen it once only in the years that I've been treating patients with this condition.

You may not see an immediate response to either the induction course of IVIg or the subsequent treatments. Recovery is dependent on the degree of nerve inflammation and damage that has occurred but one would normally see some response to treatment after approximately 3 months.

