

## PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

### ANTITHROMBIN III NF

**(Antithrombin III (Human), E.P.)**

Freeze-dried powder with diluent for intravenous injection/infusion

450 - 550 IU<sup>\*</sup>/10 mL AT RELEASE

900 - 1100 IU<sup>\*</sup>/20 mL AT RELEASE

**Anticoagulant**

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\* IU antithrombin III (as determined with a standard calibrated against the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Standard for ATIII (Human) in Concentrates, Code 06/166) corresponds to the antithrombin III activity present in 1 mL of normal human plasma.

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# ANTITHROMBIN III NF

(Antithrombin III (Human), E.P.)

## PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

### SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	Clinically Relevant Nonmedicinal Ingredients
Intravenous	Freeze-dried powder with diluent for intravenous injection  450 - 550 IU <sup>1</sup> /vial at release with 10 mL Sterile Water for Injection 900 - 1100 IU <sup>1</sup> /vial at release with 20 mL Sterile Water for Injection	Protein, Glucose, Sodium Chloride, Sodium Citrate 2H <sub>2</sub> O, Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane, Sterile water for injection

### DESCRIPTION

ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) contains antithrombin III in a sterile, purified, concentrated and stabilized form. When reconstituted, ANTITHROMBIN III NF has a pH of 6.0 – 7.5, a heparin content not exceeding 0.1 IU/IU antithrombin III, a sodium chloride content of 8 to 10 mg/mL, a glucose content of 9 to 11 mg/mL, a sodium citrate dihydrate content of 0.8 to 1.5 mg/mL, and a tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane content of 0.8 to 1.2 mg/mL. Each vial of ANTITHROMBIN III NF contains the functional activity, in international units (IU<sup>1</sup>), stated on the bottle. The Antithrombin III content is not less than 3.0 IU per mg plasma protein excluding albumin. ANTITHROMBIN III NF contains no preservatives.

ANTITHROMBIN III NF is prepared from large pools of human plasma, which may contain the causative agents of hepatitis and viral diseases. (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

### INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

ANTITHROMBIN III NF is indicated for:

- Prophylaxis and treatment of thrombotic and thromboembolic disorders in patients with hereditary antithrombin III deficiency (antithrombin III activity below 70% of normal).

<sup>1</sup> IU antithrombin III (as determined with a standard calibrated against the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Standard for ATIII (Human) in Concentrates, Code 06/166) corresponds to the antithrombin III activity present in 1 mL of normal human plasma.

- Infusions of antithrombin III may be particularly valuable in surgical procedures or pregnancy and delivery in patients with congenital antithrombin III deficiency

## **CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Antithrombin III is contraindicated in patients with:

- Hypersensitivity to the product.
- Known history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia.

## **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

### **General**

ANTITHROMBIN III NF is prepared from pooled human plasma which may contain the causative agents of hepatitis and other viral diseases. Because this product is made from human plasma, a risk of transmitting infectious agents (e.g., viruses and, theoretically, the agent that causes Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in human) cannot be totally excluded. This also applies to unknown or emerging viruses and other pathogens. Prescribed manufacturing procedures utilized at the plasma collection centres, plasma testing laboratories, and the fractionation facilities are designed to reduce the risk of transmitting viral infection by inactivating and/or removing viruses. The standard measures taken (including heat treatment, nanofiltration, purification from cryosupernatant, and ammonium sulfate precipitation) are considered effective for inactivation/removal of enveloped viruses such as HIV, HBV, and HCV, and for the nonenveloped viruses HAV and Parvovirus B19.

However, the risk of viral infectivity from this product cannot be totally eliminated. Individuals who receive infusions of blood or plasma products may develop signs and/or symptoms of some viral infections, particularly non-A, non-B hepatitis. Appropriate vaccination (hepatitis A and B) should be considered for patients in regular/repeated receipt of human plasma-derived antithrombin products.

Patients with ATIII deficiency, who are undergoing treatment using a plasma-derived product, should be appropriately vaccinated.

Hypersensitivity reactions are possible. Hypersensitivity and anaphylactic reactions have been reported with the use of Antithrombin III, and in some cases may progress to severe anaphylaxis (including shock). Patients must be closely monitored and carefully observed for any symptoms throughout the infusion period. In case of shock, standard medical treatment should be administered.

## **Special Populations**

### **Pregnancy And Nursing Mothers**

The safety of Antithrombin III for use in pregnant or lactating women has not been established in controlled clinical trials. However, the use of Antithrombin III solutions in pregnant women is referenced in the medical literature. ANTITHROMBIN III NF should be given to a pregnant or lactating woman only if clearly needed, taking into consideration that pregnancy confers an increased risk of thromboembolic events.

### **Pediatrics:**

Safety and effectiveness in children have not yet been established in clinical trials. The use of Antithrombin III solutions in the pediatric population for the unapproved indication of Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome (IRDS), as referenced in the medical literature, suggests an increased risk of intracranial bleeding and mortality in the absence of a demonstrated beneficial effect.

## **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**

Clinical and laboratory monitoring when antithrombin is used together with heparin:

- In order to adjust heparin dosage and to avoid excessive anticoagulation, controls of the extent of anticoagulation (APPT, and where appropriate anti-FXa activity) should be performed regularly, at close intervals and in particular in the first minutes/hours following the start of antithrombin use.
- It is recommended that ATIII plasma levels be monitored daily during the treatment period in order to adjust the individual dose, due to the consumption of antithrombin by prolonged treatment with non-fractionated heparin.
- The measurement of antithrombin III biological activity, e.g., using chromogenic substrates (amidolytic method), is recommended for the determination of the patient's plasma level of antithrombin III before and during treatment with ANTITHROMBIN III NF.

## **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

### **Adverse Drug Reaction Overview**

As with any other infused plasma derivative, anaphylactoid or anaphylactic reactions may occur, although rarely. The occurrence of these reactions (e.g., fever, urticarial rashes, nausea, retching,

dyspnoea, anaphylactic shock) necessitates the interruption of replacement therapy. Mild reactions can be managed with antihistamine; severe hypotonic reactions require immediate intervention using current principles of shock therapy.

### **Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions**

The following adverse reactions have been reported in the post-marketing experience, listed by MedDRA System Organ Class (SOC), then by Preferred Term in order of severity, where feasible.

**Nervous system disorders:** Tremor

**Vascular disorders:** Hot flush

**Immune System disorders:** Hypersensitivity, Anaphylactic reaction

### **Class Reactions**

Heparin-induced antibody-mediated thrombocytopenia (type II)

## **DRUG INTERACTIONS**

### **Overview**

Antithrombin replacement during administration of heparin in therapeutic dosage increases the risk of bleeding. The anticoagulant effect of heparin is enhanced by concurrent treatment with ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human). Thus, in order to avoid bleeding, reduced dosage of heparin is recommended during the treatment with ANTITHROMBIN III NF.

The half-life of antithrombin may be considerably decreased with concomitant heparin treatment due to accelerated antithrombin turnover.

There is no information of the effects of Antithrombin III on the ability to operate an automobile or other heavy machinery.

### **Drug-Drug Interactions**

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

In patients with hemorrhagic diathesis the combined use of antithrombin III and heparin will increase the risk of bleeding.

When using antithrombin III in combination with heparin treatment, the enhancement of the

anticoagulant effect must be taken into consideration when calculating the dose of heparin. In addition, attention is drawn to the fact that patients with thrombocytopenia may be deficient in platelet factor 4, which entails diminished neutralization of heparin and consequently may lead to an increased bleeding tendency.

As a rule, regular monitoring of APTT (activated partial thromboplastin time) and corresponding adjustment of the heparin dose is recommended for any combination therapy with heparin.

## **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Dosing Considerations**

The dosage of ANTITHROMBIN III NF depends on the cause and severity of AT III deficiency. Antithrombin III activity must be determined for accurate dosage calculation. The normal range of antithrombin III activity in human plasma is between 80% and 120%. A decrease in activity to below 70% of normal is associated with an increased risk of thrombosis. Individual doses should therefore be large enough to assure that an antithrombin III plasma level of at least 70% of normal is maintained between infusions.

The amount to be administered and the frequency of administration should always be based on the clinical efficacy and laboratory assessment in the individual case. The initial target antithrombin activity depends on the clinical situation. When the indication for antithrombin substitution is established, the dosage should be sufficient to reach the target antithrombin activity, and to maintain an effective level. Further monitoring of the antithrombin III plasma level at regular intervals may, however, be necessary for a prolonged period of time.

As a rule, in patients with congenital antithrombin III deficiency, the biological half life is approximately 2.5 days. In congenital Antithrombin III deficiency, dosage should be individualized for each patient taking into account the family history with regard to the thromboembolic events, the actual clinical risk factors, and Antithrombin III plasma levels.

*In cases of acute consumption of antithrombin III (DIC), the half life may be reduced to only a few hours.*

### **Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment**

#### **Dosage Guidelines**

##### **For Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation**

Dosage of ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) should be based on a determination of the patient's antithrombin III activity prior to therapy and thereafter at intervals of approximately 4-6 hours. The initial dose should be large enough to raise the plasma level to normal (80-120%). Additional doses are required whenever the antithrombin III activity has dropped to less than 70%.

In patients with an acute consumption of antithrombin III, the dosage calculations can be based on the formula:

$$\text{Dose (in IU)} = [\text{desired ATIII activity (\%)} - \text{baseline ATIII activity (\%)}] \times \text{body weight (in kg)} \text{ divided by } 1 \%$$

Maintenance dosage is also calculated using the formula stated above, except that the 1% is substituted instead, with the actual increase in ATIII activity (in %) produced by 1 IU per kg of body weight, as determined by the measurement of ATIII activity following the administration of the initial dose.

When using ANTITHROMBIN III NF in combination with heparin, it must be taken into account that the anticoagulant effect of heparin is accelerated by antithrombin III (see also "DRUG INTERACTIONS").

### **For Other Antithrombin III Defects**

As a guideline, an initial dose of 1500 IU and a maintenance dose of one half the initial dose given at 8 to 24 hour intervals is suggested for an average sized adult. However, the dosage should be adjusted to individual needs, which can only be estimated by determination of the patient's antithrombin III activity at regular intervals. In the absence of acute consumption of AT III, dosage calculations can be based on the formula:

$$\text{Dose (in IU)} = [\text{desired ATIII activity (\%)} - \text{baseline ATIII activity (\%)}] \times \text{body weight (in kg)} \text{ divided by } 2\%$$

Maintenance dosage is also calculated using the formula stated above, except that the 2% is substituted instead, with the actual increase in ATIII activity (in %) produced by 1 IU per kg of body weight, as determined by the measurement of ATIII activity following the administration of the initial dose.

### **Missed Dose**

The duration of treatment varies from case to case. In general, the administration of ANTITHROMBIN III NF may be discontinued after normalization of laboratory parameters and/or remission of clinical symptoms.

### **Administration**

Administer ANTITHROMBIN III NF only by intravenous injection or infusion.

The reconstituted solution must be given by intravenous injection or infusion immediately after preparation. The injection or infusion rate must not exceed 5 mL/minute.

The recording of the product name and batch number is strongly recommended following each administration of this product in order to maintain a link between the patient and the batch of the product administered.



**For intravenous injection:**

1. After reconstituting the concentrate as described under "Reconstitution of Concentrate", attach the enclosed filter needle to a sterile disposable syringe and insert needle through the bottle stopper (fig. F).
2. Inject air and withdraw solution into syringe.
3. Remove and discard filter needle. Attach a suitable intravenous needle or infusion set with winged adapter to the syringe and inject solution intravenously.

**For intravenous infusion:**

Prepare a solution of ANTITHROMBIN III NF as described under "Reconstitution of Concentrate". If not filtered during dissolution, a disposable infusion set with a filter (range between 149 micrometer and 5 micrometer) is to be used.

**Reconstitution of Concentrate:**

ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) is to be stored in its lyophilized condition and reconstituted immediately before application. Entered vials must not be reused. The product does not contain a preservative and must be handled with aseptic technique to prevent contamination.

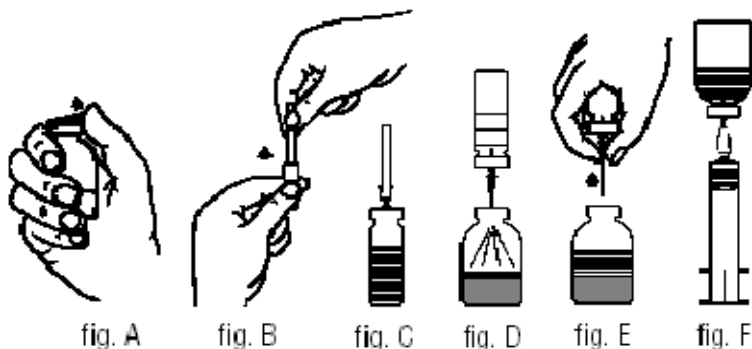
For reconstitution, proceed as follows:

1. Remove the unopened bottle containing Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) from the refrigerator and allow it warm up to room temperature (not above 37°C, 98°F).
2. Remove caps from the concentrate and diluent bottles to expose central portions of the rubber stoppers (fig. A).
3. Cleanse exposed surface of the rubber stopper with germicidal solution and allow to dry.
4. Using aseptic technique, remove protective covering from one end of the double-ended needle and insert the exposed end through the diluent bottle stopper (fig. B and C).
5. Remove protective covering from the other end of the double-ended needle, taking care not to touch the exposed end. Invert diluent bottle over the concentrate bottle, then rapidly insert free end of the needle through the concentrate bottle stopper (fig. D). Diluent will be drawn into the concentrate bottle by vacuum.
6. Disconnect the two bottles by removing the needle from the concentrate bottle stopper (fig. E). Gently agitate or rotate the concentrate bottle until all material is dissolved.
7. Visually inspect the reconstituted product for particulate matter and discoloration prior to

administration, whenever solution and container permit. Discard if particulate matter or discoloration exists.

8. Do not use solutions that are cloudy or have deposits.

**Do not refrigerate after reconstitution.**



## OVERDOSAGE

No symptoms of overdosage with ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) are known.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

## ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### Mechanism of Action

Antithrombin III acts as a physiological inhibitor of blood coagulation, particularly by inhibition of thrombin and activated factor X, but also of factors IXa, XIa, XIIa, and plasmin. This inhibitory effect of antithrombin III (AT III) can occur in the absence of heparin, but is accelerated within the presence of heparin. Antithrombin III is an alpha-2 globulin with a molecular weight ranging between 58,000 and 65,000 Dalton. Plasma concentrations from 140 µg to 300 µg /mL have been reported in healthy adults. In adults, the normal range of activity is between 80 and 120%, where 100% is equivalent to the antithrombin III activity as found in 1 mL of a human reference plasma pool. Normal levels in newborns are approximately 50%. Adult levels are usually reached by six months of life.

The fact that antithrombin III has a considerably reduced tolerance range compared to the coagulation factors is of clinical importance. Whereas the coagulation enzymes may drop to 40% and below without the occurrence of bleeding, even moderate decreases of antithrombin III activity to 70% are associated with an increased risk of thrombosis. ANTITHROMBIN III NF,

Antithrombin III (human), provides a temporary increase in plasma levels of AT III and thus allows for treatment and/or prophylaxis of thrombotic or thromboembolic events in AT III deficient patients.

As shown by clinical studies, *in vivo* recovery and half-life of ANTITHROMBIN III NF depend on the patient's clinical condition and coagulation status at the time of infusion. In normal individuals and in patients with inherited AT III deficiency half-life is > 2 days. During acute consumption coagulopathy (DIC) it may be reduced to a few hours. For example, in two investigations of ANTITHROMBIN III NF, mean *in vivo* recovery was found to be respectively 38% and 47% in patients with acute DIC vs. 78% and 83% in patients without acute DIC; half life was 4.25 and 4.4 hours with acute DIC vs. 20 and 25 hours without.

Thus, the average rise in percent AT III activity after infusion of 1 unit of ANTITHROMBIN III NF per kg body weight was found to be approximately 1% in patients with acute DIC and 2% in patients in a steady state.

## **STORAGE AND STABILITY**

When stored between +2°C and +8°C (+35°F and +46°F), ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) is stable until the date indicated on the label.

ANTITHROMBIN III NF should not be frozen.

Administer ANTITHROMBIN III NF immediately after reconstitution. Do not refrigerate after reconstitution.

Administration equipment and any unused reconstituted ATIII product should be appropriately discarded.

## **SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS**

Antithrombin III contains no preservatives. Therefore, it should be reconstituted just prior to administration. Aseptic technique should be used throughout the entire reconstitution process and the solution should then be used immediately.

Do not use solutions that are cloudy or have deposits.

Do not refrigerate after reconstitution.

If devices other than those supplied with Antithrombin III are used, ensure use of an adequate filter. A disposable infusion set with a filter (range between 149 micrometer and 5 micrometer) is to be used.

## DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) is supplied in a single dose vial accompanied by a vial of Sterile Water for Injection, E.P. for diluent, a sterile double-ended needle and a sterile filter needle as follows:

ANTITHROMBIN III NF (IU <sup>1</sup> /vial)	Sterile Water for Injection, E.P. (mL)
450 – 550 at release	10
900 – 1100 at release	20

The number of I.U.<sup>1</sup> antithrombin III is stated on the label of each vial.

## PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

#### Drug Substance

Proper name:	Antithrombin III (Human), E.P.
Chemical name:	Not Applicable
Molecular formula and molecular mass:	Human Antithrombin III is a plasma alpha2 glycoprotein and belongs to the serpin (serin protease- inhibitor) superfamily. The relative molecular mass of human Antithrombin III is 58 200.
Structural formula:	Human Antithrombin III is a single polypeptide chain of 432 amino acids with three disulfide bridges and four glycosylation sites. It contains two functionally important domains. The first contains the reactive center and provides a cleavage site for proteinases such as thrombin, a prerequisite for forming a stable proteinase - inhibitor complex. The second is a glycosaminoglycan binding domain responsible for the interaction with heparin and related substances, which accelerates the inhibition of thrombin.
Physicochemical properties:	Antithrombin III is a plasma glycoprotein synthesized in the liver. It is one of the most important natural inhibitors of blood coagulation. The factors most strongly inhibited are thrombin and factor Xa, but also factors of contact activation, intrinsic system and the factor VIIa/tissue factor complex. Antithrombin III activity is greatly enhanced by heparin and the anticoagulant effects of heparin depend on the presence of Antithrombin III.

#### Product Characteristics

ANTITHROMBIN III NF is manufactured from pooled human plasma for fractionation, collected

by plasmapheresis or obtained from whole blood donations.

## **Viral Reduction**

To prevent the transmission of infective agents by the administration of ANTITHROMBIN III NF, measures are taken for donor and plasma selection, as well as virus removal and inactivation steps during manufacture. In addition to the required plasma screening tests, all individual plasma donations are subjected to an inventory hold for a possible look-back of plasma donations suspected of infection. Moreover, a plasma pool sample is tested for antibodies to HIV-1/HIV-2 and HBsAg; in addition to that, a test for viral genomic sequences of HIV-1/HIV-2, HBV, HAV, HCV and Parvo B19 is performed using the polymerase chain reaction (HIQ-PCR).

The effectiveness of the steps as employed during the manufacture of ANTITHROMBIN III NF to remove and/or inactivate potential viral contamination ( adsorption on DEAE-Sephadex, heat treatment for 10 hrs. at 60°C; ammonium sulfate precipitation and nanofiltration) has been demonstrated in validation studies using human immuno deficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1), hepatitis A virus (HAV) and human parvovirus B19 (B19V) as target viruses, and bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) as a model for hepatitis C virus (HCV), pseudorabies virus (PRV) as a general model for hepatitis B virus (HBV), and mice minute virus (MMV) as a model for B19V. It was demonstrated that the different steps investigated resulted in overall virus titer reductions by factors of  $\geq 14.8$  logs for HIV-1,  $\geq 16.3$  logs for HAV,  $\geq 13.9$  logs for HBV,  $\geq 13.9$  logs for HCV,  $> 14.1$  logs for MMV and 7.2 logs for B19V.

The risk of transfusion-transmitted viral infection in AT III recipients previously untreated with blood or blood products (PUP's) was followed in a prospective clinical study using the criteria established by the International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis. Data from 26 patients were evaluated for non-A, non-B hepatitis and 27 for hepatitis B transmission. In addition, 20 patients were evaluated for HCV seroconversion and 78 for HIV seroconversion. No case of product-related transmission of viral hepatitis or HIV was observed.

## **DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY**

### **1. Animals**

#### **Pharmacodynamics**

Bahrami *et al.* in 1989 investigated the protective effect of ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO, Antithrombin III (human) against DIC induced death in rats previously treated with E. coli-toxin. In the untreated controls 70% of animals died of DIC whereas in the rats who had received 400 IU Antithrombin III i.p. at 1h prior to the endotoxin, mortality was only 50%. The results of the study suggest that Antithrombin III is effective in protecting against endotoxemia induced DIC.

In addition, the pharmacodynamic effect is routinely assessed *in-vitro* by determinations of Antithrombin III activity during quality control of intermediates and the final container.

#### **Pharmacokinetics**

Animal pharmacokinetics studies with human protein do not appear relevant because due to

species-specificity data obtained in animals cannot be extrapolated to humans.

## 2. Humans

### Pharmacodynamics

In a controlled double blind randomized multicenter study by Baudo *et al.* in 1995, the effect of AT III therapy on survival and multiple organ failure (MOF score) was evaluated in 119 patients with sepsis and/or post-surgical complications (59 ATIII; 60 placebo). The mean MOF score showed significant improvements for all AT III-treated patients. AT III therapy also led to a reduction of fibrin (fibrinogen) degradation products and to a marked increase of the plasminogen level. At both day 7 and day 30, mortality was significantly reduced in patients with septic shock who received AT III replacement therapy as compared to placebo.

In a controlled, randomized open-label efficacy study by Blauhut *et al* in 1985, 3 groups of shock patients with DIC (n=51) were treated either with AT III or heparin or with ATIII+heparin. In the two heparin groups a drop in platelet count was observed. Blood loss in traumatic shock was considerably higher in the AT III+heparin group. Duration of symptoms of DIC was considerably shortened in both AT III groups (DIC symptoms disappeared after 42±28.2 h in the AT III group, after 57.1±31.9 h in the AT III/heparin group and after 110.6±48.4 h in patients with heparin alone.) These data suggest that AT III replacement in patients with shock and DIC is superior to the commonly used treatment with heparin. In addition, it was concluded that additional heparin does not improve the effect of AT III and is likely to be associated with thrombocytopenia and increased blood loss. Vinazzer *et al.* in 1986 later presented data on 52 further patients with shock and DIC who were treated with various AT III concentrates, 15 of whom had received ANTITHROMBIN III . When the results of all patients admitted in shock phase IV were compared, there were 8 deaths out of 9 under heparin therapy, but only 7 out of 18 under AT III substitution. The authors conclude that this difference is of considerable clinical interest, although it does not permit statistical evaluation, since the two therapeutic regimens were given at different times.

In an open-label, prospective, controlled clinical study by Fagiano *et al* (1989) the effect of AT III to reverse partial or complete failure to respond to heparin was investigated in three groups of patients (n=20 each) undergoing CABG surgery (group 1 - normal response – positive control, group 2 - reduced response -negative control, group 3 –reduced response and treatment with AT III IMMUNO). In the treatment group AT III replacement resulted in normalization of the response to heparin as well as of blood loss and the amount of blood transfused. The authors concluded from the results that treatment with AT III can achieve sufficient anticoagulation in patients with a decreased response to heparin to avoid the necessity of administering high doses of heparin and the resulting risk of bleeding complications.

### Pharmacokinetics

Clinical evaluation of ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO for its *in vivo* recovery and half-life characteristics indicated that these parameters depend on the patient's clinical condition and coagulation status at the time of the infusion.

In normal individuals and in asymptomatic patients with inherited AT III deficiency the half-life

of AT III is >2 days. ***During acute consumption coagulopathy (DIC), the half life may be reduced to only a few hours.*** For example, in two investigations of ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO, the mean 50% disappearance rate was found to be respectively 4.25 and 4.4 hours in patients with acute DIC vs. 20 and 25 hours in patients without DIC. Mean *in vivo* recovery was respectively 38% and 47% with acute DIC vs. 78% and 83% without acute DIC.

In these and other studies, *in vivo* recovery and half-life were investigated in a total number of 136 patients receiving ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO for treatment of different stages of shock. In these studies it was shown that in patients with disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), antithrombin III activity will rise by 1 % per unit ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO administered per kg body weight, whereas in antithrombin III-deficient patients without consumption coagulopathy the increase to be expected is 2%.

## **TOXICOLOGY**

### **Humans**

In the total of 365 patients in whom efficacy was evaluated either in clinical studies or case reports no product-related adverse drug events were reported.

In addition, pharmacoepidemiological surveillance shows that between the reporting period from January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1995, during which 269.2 million units ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO, Antithrombin III (human) were distributed world-wide, not a single product-related adverse event was reported to IMMUNO.

Viral safety was evaluated in a prospective, clinical study in which AT III recipients previously untreated with blood or blood products (PUP's) were followed up for transfusion-transmitted viral hepatitis using the criteria established by the International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis. 26 patients were evaluated for hepatitis non-A, non-B transmission and 27 for hepatitis B transmission. In addition 20 patients were evaluated for HCV seroconversion and 78 for HIV seroconversion. No case of product-related transmission of viral hepatitis or HIV was observed.

### **Animals**

Single dose toxicity was evaluated on 3 lots of ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO in NMRI mice using between 1250 and 5000 IU AT III per kg body weight. No animal died or showed toxic effects, even at the highest dose administered.

Abnormal toxicity is routinely tested on each batch of product in mice and guinea pigs within the framework of quality control.

Studies on subacute and chronic toxicity as well as studies on reproduction toxicity and mutagenic or tumorigenic potential were not performed since repeated administration of human antithrombin III would be likely to cause the formation of antibodies in the animals. Results obtained in the animal model would thus not allow extrapolation to humans.



ANTITHROMBIN III IMMUNO has not been reported to be associated with embryo-fetal toxicity, oncogenic or mutagenic potential.

Data on the efficacy of the steps during production to remove and/or inactivate viruses have been previously described in the chapter on "Clinical Pharmacology".

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**PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION****ANTITHROMBIN III NF  
(Antithrombin III (Human), E.P.)**

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when ANTITHROMBIN III NF was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about ANTITHROMBIN III NF. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

**ABOUT THIS MEDICATION****What the medication is used for:**

- ANTITHROMBIN III NF is used for treatment and/or prevention of thrombotic and thromboembolic disorders in people with hereditary Antithrombin III.
- ANTITHROMBIN III NF may be used in surgical procedures or pregnancy and delivery in people with congenital antithrombin III deficiency.

**What it does:**

ANTITHROMBIN III NF treats and/or prevents thrombotic or thromboembolic events by temporarily raising the level of ATIII in plasma and reducing blood coagulation.

**When it should not be used:**

You should not use ANTITHROMBIN III NF unless your doctor confirms that you have thrombotic or thromboembolic disorders.

You should not use ANTITHROMBIN III NF if you are hypersensitive to the product or if you have a known history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia.

**What the medicinal ingredient is:**

The active substance is human Antithrombin III protein.

**What the important nonmedicinal ingredients are:**

Glucose, Protein, Sodium Chloride, Sodium Citrate Dihydrate, Sterile water for injection.

*For a full listing of nonmedicinal ingredients see Part 1 of the product monograph.*

ANTITHROMBIN III NF contains no preservative.

**What dosage forms it comes in:**

ANTITHROMBIN III NF is available as a freeze-dried powder that is to be reconstituted with sterile water prior to intravenous injection/infusion. ANTITHROMBIN III NF is available in glass vials that contain:

- 450 - 550 International Units (IU) per vial at release with 10 mL Sterile Water for Injection
- 900 - 1100 IU per vial at release with 20 mL Sterile Water for Injection

The exact amount of antithrombin III (in IU) is stated on the label of each vial.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

ANTITHROMBIN III NF is prepared from human plasma which may contain causative agents of hepatitis and other viral diseases.

This also applies to unknown or emerging viruses and other pathogens.

**BEFORE** you use ANTITHROMBIN III NF talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:

- You are undergoing or planning to undergo heparin treatment.
- You are pregnant or may be pregnant.
- You are a nursing mother.

**INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**

Drugs that may interact with ANTITHROMBIN III NF include:

**Heparin** – The effects of ANTITHROMBIN III NF may be accelerated in the presence of heparin. Please consult your doctor before using antithrombin III in combination with heparin treatment.

ANTITHROMBIN III NF must not be mixed with other medicines.

**PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION****Usual dose:**

The dosage of ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) depends on the cause and the severity of Antithrombin III deficiency. Thus, the Antithrombin III activity must be determined for accurate dosage calculation.

**For Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC):**

Dosage of ANTITHROMBIN III NF should be based on a determination of your antithrombin III activity prior to therapy and thereafter at intervals of approximately 4-6 hours. The initial dose should be large enough to raise the plasma level to normal (80-120%). Additional doses are required whenever the antithrombin III activity has dropped to less than 70%.

**For Other Antithrombin III Defects:**

As a guideline, an initial dose of 1500 IU and a maintenance dose of one half the initial dose given at 8 to 24 hour intervals is suggested for an average sized adult. However, the dosage should be adjusted to individual needs, which can only be estimated by determination of your Antithrombin III activity at regular intervals.

**Overdose:**

No symptoms of overdosage with ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) are known.

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING  
ANTITHROMBIN III NF**

**Missed Dose:**

The duration of treatment varies from case to case. In general, the administration of ANTITHROMBIN III NF may be discontinued after normalization of laboratory parameters and/or remission of clinical symptoms. Further monitoring of the antithrombin III plasma level at regular intervals may, however, be necessary for a prolonged period of time.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

- Although rare, as with any other product that is prepared from the liquid part of the blood (plasma), severe allergic reactions may occur.
- If you develop fever, skin rashes, nausea, retching, shortness of breath, you should discontinue use of ANTITHROMBIN III NF.
- In the case of shock, medical attention should be initiated as appropriate.
- Mild allergic reactions may be managed with antihistamine.

The following side effects have been reported:

- Tremor (Involuntary Shaking)
- Hot flush

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking ANTITHROMBIN III NF, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

**HOW TO STORE IT**

- Do not freeze ANTITHROMBIN III NF. ANTITHROMBIN III NF should be refrigerated (stored between 2°C and 8°C [35°F and 46°F]).
- ANTITHROMBIN III NF must not be used beyond the expiration date indicated on the label.
- ANTITHROMBIN III NF should be used immediately after preparation.
- Do not place back into refrigerator after reconstitution.
- Any unused portion of reconstituted solution should be discarded.
- Do not use solutions that are cloudy or have deposits.
- If devices other than those supplied with Antithrombin III are used, ensure use of an adequate filter. A disposable infusion set with a filter (range between 149 micrometer and 5 micrometer) is to be used.

*Keep out of reach of children.*

**Reconstitution of Concentrate**

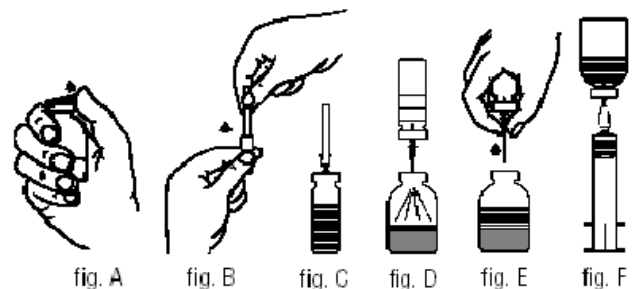
ANTITHROMBIN III NF, Antithrombin III (human) is to be reconstituted immediately before its use. Entered vials must not be reused. The product does not contain a preservative and must be handled with aseptic technique to prevent contamination.

Before proceeding, ensure that the expiration date on the ANTITHROMBIN III NF concentrate vial or package is still valid.

**For reconstitution, proceed as follows:**

1. Remove the unopened bottle containing Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) from the refrigerator and allow it warm up to room temperature (not above 37°C, 98°F).
2. Remove the caps of both the concentrate and the diluent bottles to expose the central portions of the rubber stoppers (fig. A).
3. Cleanse exposed surface of the rubber stoppers with germicidal solution and allow to dry.
4. Using aseptic technique, remove protective covering from one end of the double-ended needle and insert the exposed end through the diluent bottle stopper (fig. B and C).
5. Remove protective covering from the other end of the double-ended needle, taking care not to touch the exposed end. Invert diluent bottle over the concentrate bottle, then rapidly insert the free end of the needle through the concentrate bottle stopper (fig. D). Diluent will be drawn into the concentrate bottle by vacuum.
6. Disconnect the two bottles by removing the needle from the concentrate bottle stopper (fig. E). Gently agitate or rotate the concentrate bottle until all material is dissolved.
7. Visually inspect the reconstituted product for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. Discard if particulate matter or discoloration exists.

**Do not refrigerate after reconstitution.**



**Administration**

The reconstituted solution must be given by intravenous injection or infusion immediately after preparation. The injection or infusion rate must not exceed 5 mL/minute.

**Shire Pharma Canada ULC**  
 22 Adelaide Street West, Suite 3800  
 Toronto Ontario M5H 4E3

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**For intravenous injection:**

1. After reconstituting the concentrate as described above (see **Reconstitution of Concentrate** section), attach the enclosed filter needle to a sterile disposable syringe and insert the needle through the bottle stopper (fig. F).
2. Inject air and withdraw solution into syringe.
3. Remove and discard filter needle. Attach a suitable intravenous needle or infusion set with winged adapter to the syringe and inject solution intravenously.

**For intravenous infusion:**

Prepare a solution of ANTITHROMBIN III NF as described above (see **Reconstitution of Concentrate** section). If not filtered during dissolution, a disposable infusion set with a filter (range between 149 micrometer and 5 micrometer) is to be used.

**Reporting Side Effects**

You can help improve the safe use of health products for Canadians by reporting serious and unexpected side effects to Health Canada. Your report may help to identify new side effects and change the product safety information.

**3 ways to report:**

- Online at [canada.ca/medeffect](http://canada.ca/medeffect);
- By calling 1-866-234-2345 (toll-free);
- By completing a Patient Side Effect Reporting Form and sending it by:
  - Fax to 1-866-678-6789 (toll-free), or
  - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program  
 Marketed Health Products Directorate  
 Health Canada, Postal Locator 1908C  
 Ottawa, ON  
 K1A 0K9  
 Postage paid labels and the Patient Side Effect Reporting Form are available at [canada.ca/medeffect](http://canada.ca/medeffect).

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice*

**MORE INFORMATION**

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at:

Health Canada website; the manufacturer’s website [www.shirecanada.com](http://www.shirecanada.com), or by calling 1-800-268-2772.

This leaflet was prepared by: