

Health Facts *for you*

Heparin (Unfractionated and Low Molecular Weight)

The name of your medication is: _____

Heparin and low molecular weight heparin can be used to either prevent blood clots from forming or to treat blood clots in the legs or lungs.

Before Using

Please talk with your doctor about the topics listed below.

- Allergies to medication, food products, especially pork, preservatives or dyes
- Bleeding disorders
- History of stomach ulcers
- Recent trauma to the body or head
- Recent medical or dental surgery
- Pregnant or intend to become pregnant and/or breast feeding

Proper Use

This medication is given as an injection under the skin. You will be taught how to self inject in the sites that are best for you. These are most often given in the stomach.

Be careful with your needles. You may be given a sharps container, if it is needed, to dispose of your needles. Keep it out of the reach of children and pets.

Do not use this medicine if it has changed color, contains particles, or if the vial/syringe is damaged.

Take this medicine as prescribed. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your schedule. Do not double doses. If you miss more than one dose, call your doctor.

Talk to your doctor at each office visit about this medicine. Take this medicine until your doctor tells you to stop.

Storage

Store at room temperature, away from heat and light. Do not freeze. Throw away any unused or expired medicine.

Precautions

Tell all members of your health care team (doctors, dentist) that you are using this medicine. It may increase your risk for bleeding. Report any signs of bleeding to your doctor right away such as unusual bruising, blood in stools, vomit, or urine.

Side Effects

Side effects that should be reported to the doctor right away:

Less Common

- Blood in urine, stools or vomit
- Black, tarry stools
- Vomit with a “coffee ground” look
- Unusual bruising
- Persistent bleeding or oozing from your nose, a wound or cut
- Fever
- Sudden or severe headache for no reason

Rare

- Chest pain or discomfort
- Fast or irregular heart beat
- Skin rash, itching, or hives
- Swelling of lips, face, tongue or mouth
- Trouble breathing

Side effects that often do not need medical help: (These side effects may go away during treatment; if they continue or bother you, check with your doctor.)

Less Common

- Increased menstrual bleeding
- Irritation, burning, pain or redness at the injection site
- Nausea or diarrhea

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. If you notice any other effects, check with your doctor.