

Anti-Xa levels

Blood tests your child needs while taking Enoxaparin

What is the anti-Xa blood test?

While your child is taking enoxaparin, he or she needs to have a regular blood test called Anti-Xa levels. This test shows the anti-coagulant effect of enoxaparin. The Anti-Xa level is used to decide whether the amount of enoxaparin given is appropriate or needs adjusting. The Anti-Xa level is kept at a target range of 0.5 to 1.0 units per ml. You and the clinic nurse will work together to make sure your child gets the right amount of enoxaparin.

The Anti-Xa level blood test MUST be done 4 hours after your child receives an enoxaparin injection.

Where is the anti-Xa blood test done?

Bring your child to the Specimen Collection Centre (lab) in Room 3H6 (3rd floor, red section) in the McMaster University Medical Centre. When you arrive, tell the staff what time your child needs to have the blood test. This will be 4 hours after the last injection of enoxaparin. As the lab is usually very busy, it would be best to arrive at least an hour before the blood test is due.

If you and the Thrombosis Team agree that your child will use a different lab, tell the clinic nurse the name, address, phone and fax number of the laboratory.

How will I get the results?

The clinic nurse will call you within 1 day of getting the results of the blood test. During this phone call, the clinic nurse will:

- tell you
 - the anti-Xa levels
 - any changes to the dose of enoxaparin
 - the date of your child's next anti-Xa blood test
- check that you understand the instructions for your child's next enoxaparin injection
- ask if your child has had any bleeding or side effects from enoxaparin
- answer your questions and discuss any concerns you have about your child



It is extremely important that the clinic nurse has your correct phone number.

If a message cannot be left on this phone, give the nurse another phone number where you will pick up messages.

What if I am not home when the nurse calls?

If there is no one to answer your phone, the nurse will leave you a message with the following information:

- your child's anti-Xa levels
- any changes to the dose of enoxaparin
- the date when your child needs the next anti-Xa blood test

When you pick up the message, please call back and speak to the clinic nurse to make sure the information was communicated correctly.

The nurse will ask you to repeat her instructions in your own words. This helps the clinic nurse know that the instructions are clearly understood. If the nurse is not available, leave a message explaining the instructions as you understand them. She will return your call if there is any misunderstanding.



For your child's safety, always check that you have the correct instructions BEFORE giving your child the next injection of enoxaparin.

When should I call the clinic nurse?

Call the clinic nurse if:

- you have not received the nurse's instructions (your child's anti-Xa levels, enoxaparin dose and date for the next blood test) within 1 day after the anti-Xa blood test
- your child cannot have the blood test on the scheduled day
- you have any concerns or comments about your child's care