

Enoxaparin

Information for parents of school age children

What is enoxaparin?

Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) is an anti-coagulant medication.

anti = against

coagulant = causes blood to clot

Enoxaparin slows down the formation of blood clots. This can prevent blood clots from forming or prevent blood clots from getting bigger.

How do I give enoxaparin?

Enoxaparin is given by a needle into your child's skin. This is called a subcutaneous injection. The nurses (the Thrombosis Nurse, a ward nurse or Home Care Nurse) will help you learn to do this. Your child needs an injection of enoxaparin every 12 hours. Give the enoxaparin at the same times every day.

Involve your child in setting a routine for the injection. He or she can decide what position is most comfortable and whether a distraction such as deep breathing, watching a movie or listening to music would be helpful.

Enoxaparin (100 mg/ml) 1 mg = 1 unit (diabetic syringe)
Your child's dose is Enoxaparin _____ mg = _____ units

The length of treatment depends on your child's condition. The average length of treatment with enoxaparin is 3 to 6 months.

What side effects are possible?

Your child may have pain or bruising at the injection site. Some side effects can be serious, such as bleeding or infection. Call the Thrombosis Team if you notice any of the problems listed on page 3.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose of enoxaparin, call the Thrombosis Team for instructions.

How do I store the medication?

Store enoxaparin at room temperature (not above 25° C or below 0° C). Keep it in a safe place, away from children. An open vial can be used for 28 days. After 28 days, dispose of the vial in your sharps box.

What care does my child need while on enoxaparin?

Your child needs to have regular blood tests called Anti-Xa levels. This test is done 4 hours after an injection of enoxaparin. The results determine how much enoxaparin your child needs. The Thrombosis Nurse will tell you the dates of the tests, and phone you to tell you the results and any changes to your child's treatment.

Your child may need to have follow-up scans, such as an ultrasound, to check the blood clot and the effects of treatment.

Take extra care so that your child does not get cut or injured:

- have your child wear slippers or shoes to protect his or her feet
- give your child a soft tooth brush
- tell your child to take care when clipping nails
- remove throw rugs and use a non-slip bath mat to avoid falls
- have your child avoid contact sports
- talk with your child's physical education teacher to make sure your child's activities are safe during anti-coagulant therapy
- make sure your child wears protective equipment, such as shin pads for soccer and a helmet when riding a bike or skateboard

If your child needs any medical treatment or dental care, tell the doctor or dentist that he or she is receiving enoxaparin. Your child should not have any other injections while taking enoxaparin, unless directed by the Thrombosis Team.

When should I call the Thrombosis Team?

Talk with the Thrombosis Team:

- **before giving your child any other medication (including medication you can buy without a prescription), supplements or herbal remedies**
- if you miss a dose of enoxaparin
- if your child needs medical treatment or surgery
- if you have plans to travel
- if you have any questions about your child's care

**Call the Thrombosis Team right away
if your child has ANY of these problems:**

- a cut that does not stop bleeding after a few minutes
- nosebleeds or bleeding gums
- large bruises that you cannot explain
- a fall or hit on the head
- a headache that does not go away
- red or black bowel movements
- red or dark brown urine
- vomiting or coughing up blood
- chest pain or trouble breathing
- a skin rash

