

Enoxaparin

Information for parents of toddlers

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. It is helpful to have a routine, such as using the same room or comforting toy.

Prepare your child by telling him or her what you are going to do. Your child may hold still and cope better if he or she has something special to do during the injection. This could be counting down, blowing bubbles to breathe through the injection, squeezing a squishy toy or someone's hand. You can also distract your child's attention with a song or favorite movie. Afterwards, comfort your child with a cuddle or a favorite toy.

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:

- protect your child's feet with slippers or shoes
- brush your child's teeth with a soft toothbrush
- be careful when you clip his or her nails
- don't let your child scratch his or her skin
- remove throw rugs and use a non-slip bath mat to avoid falls
- avoid contact sports and make sure your child wears protective equipment, such as a helmet when riding a bike

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

