

Enoxaparin



Hematology/Oncology Clinic
4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2345 • 1-888-300-3088
www.bcchildrens.ca

What Is Enoxaparin Used For?

Enoxaparin is used to prevent blood clots from forming. It works by stopping the formation of substances that cause clots. Enoxaparin is also used to treat blood clots that have already formed in blood vessels.

How Should I Give This Medication To My Child?

Enoxaparin is usually given twice a day:

- one dose in the morning
- one dose in the evening twelve hours after the dose in the morning

It is important to give the medication at the same time each day. Link it with something that you always do like eating breakfast or brushing teeth. If you record on a calendar when you have given your child's daily dose, this serves as a check and a reminder.

Enoxaparin is given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously). It does not go into the muscle. An insuflon is a catheter (small tube) that can be inserted under the skin by a nurse or you can be taught to do it yourself. Medicine can be given through this catheter instead of using a needle. A nurse will teach you how to give the medicine through the insuflon.

If My Child Misses A Dose, What Should I Do?

Here is what to do in case you forget to give a dose:

If it is less than six hours after the scheduled time	Inject the missed dose
If it is more than six hours after the scheduled time	Do not inject the missed dose and continue with your next regular dose.

DO NOT inject two doses at the same time to make up for a missed one. If a dose is missed or given more than 4 hours after the scheduled time call your Thrombosis nurse or the hematologist.

What Are The Side Effects That My Child May Experience?

Side effects from enoxaparin are not common but if you notice any of the following symptoms call your hematologist:

- unusual bleeding or bruising which is slow to heal
- black or bloody stools
- blood in urine (urine would be dark in colour)
- coughing or vomiting up blood, which can be red or black in colour and has the appearance of coffee grounds
- upset stomach
- fever

Continued...

Monitoring Enoxaparin Levels

When on enoxaparin your child will require regular blood tests. A blood test called Anti-Xa or Low Molecular Weight Heparin Level is done to make sure your child's blood is clotting in a safe range.

All blood tests should be drawn four hours after injection.

What Do I Need To Do To Make Sure Testing Goes Smoothly?

When you first go home from the hospital, you will need to organize the following:

- choose which laboratory you will go to for your child's Anti-Xa level.
- have the lab fax all Anti-Xa level results to 604-875-3414, Attention: Thrombosis Nurse.
- call the Thrombosis Nurse and provide the lab's name, address, phone and fax number.
- provide the Thrombosis nurse with an alternative phone number if messages cannot be left at your home phone number.

Call The Thrombosis Nurse If:

- you have not received your Anti-Xa level results, enoxaparin dose and/or next blood test appointment within three days after your child's blood test was taken.
- you cannot have the blood sample taken on the scheduled day.
- you have received a message from the Thrombosis Nurse about either your child's Anti-Xa level, enoxaparin dose or your child's next blood test appointment. Call to confirm your understanding of these instructions.

What Is The Role Of The Thrombosis Nurse?

The Thrombosis Nurse:

- calls your family with the Anti-Xa level, any changes with the enoxaparin dose, and date of next blood test within three days after the blood test results are received.
- calls your family if messaged instructions were not understood.
- follows up with lab if results were not received.

At first, your child's blood will need to be checked regularly. Once the Enoxaparin levels become stable, then your child's blood will be checked about once a month. The Thrombosis Nurse will discuss dose changes and your child's schedule for blood tests with you.

Where Should Enoxaparin Be Stored?

- Store Enoxaparin out of reach of children and never share this medication with anyone.
- Keep the vials at room temperature and away from heat and direct light.
- Open vials can be stored at room temperature for 7 days. Record the date on the vial when you begin to use it and then discard it after 7 days of use.

What Safety Measures Should I Take While My Child Is On Enoxaparin?

If your child gets a cut, it will bleed for longer than usual. Apply pressure directly to the cut with gauze and do not stop applying pressure until the bleeding stops (this should take about 5 minutes). The amount of bleeding will depend upon the size and the location of the cut.

Your child can participate in most activities; however, it is a good idea to discuss sports with your Hematologist.

Enoxaparin may have to be stopped for a short time, prior to any surgical or dental procedure. Check with your Hematologist.

While on Enoxaparin you need to take special care with daily routines such as:

- **care of teeth** - use a soft toothbrush and floss gently.
- **care of feet** - always wear shoes or slippers to prevent cuts, scrapes, and falls.
- **bathing** - use a rubber mat in tub or shower to prevent falls.
- **shaving** (for adolescents) - electric razors are best to prevent cuts and nicks.
- **kitchen & household activities** - take care when using sharp knives, peelers, tools, or other sharp instruments.

Immunizations

Routine immunizations should be followed as per the regular schedule. After your child is given his/her immunization shot, apply ice and pressure for 3 to 5 minutes to the injection site to help minimize bruising.

Inform Others:

It is a good idea for your child to wear a Medic-Alert™ bracelet to indicate that he/she is on Enoxaparin. Also, tell your child's dentist, doctors and school health nurse about the Enoxaparin. Then, in the event of a medical emergency, health care providers will know to take the necessary steps to protect against bleeding.

Contact Information:

Thrombosis Nurse:

604-875-2345 ext 7058

Hematology/Oncology Clinic:

604-875-2116

Mon-Fri 8:00 am—5:00 pm

After hours/Weekends:

604-875-2161 (Paging)

Ask to speak with the hematologist on call.

Contact your pharmacy at least two days before your medicine runs out.