Heparin (HEP-a-rin) Injection

This medicine is used to prevent clots in the blood vessels. It may be used before or after procedures, or when activity is limited and the risk of blood clots increases. Heparin can also be used to diagnose and treat certain bleeding disorders. It may be used to treat blood clots, often located in the leg, arm or lung.

Heparin is sometimes given by injection or shot in to the belly to prevent blood clots from forming. Very low dose heparin, sometimes called heparin lock or heparin flush, is used in intravenous (IV) devices to prevent clots from forming in the devices.

This medicine is also called an anticoagulant medicine or blood thinner.

Brand names

- Novaplus Heparin Sodium
- PremierPro Rx Heparin Sodium
- BD PosiFlush Heparin Lock
- PosiFlush Heparin
- Monoject Prefill Heparin Lock Flush

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

When this medicine should Not Be Used

You should not receive this medicine if you have:

- Had an allergic reaction to heparin, corn or pork products.
- Active bleeding.
- Severe thrombocytopenia (low platelet count in the blood). While on this medicine your platelet count is followed through blood tests to check for a rare side effect called heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT). HIT can cause your platelet count to fall too low and increase your risk for blood clots.

How to use this injectable medicine

Your doctor will prescribe your exact dose and tell you how often it should be given.

- This medicine is given through a needle placed in one of your veins or as a shot under your skin. A nurse or other trained health professional will give you this medicine. You may be taught how to give your medicine as a shot under your skin, called a subcutaneous injection, at home. Understand how to give this medicine safely before you do it at home.
- Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you to.
• You will be shown specific areas of the body where this shot can be given.
• Use a different body area each time you give yourself a shot to decrease bruising and prevent skin from hardening. Keep track of where you give each shot to make sure you alternate body areas.
• Call your provider if you have redness, swelling, burning, or pain where you injected the medicine.
• Do not reuse needles or syringes. Use a new needle and syringe each time.
• You may need to carry an identification card to let others know you are using heparin in case of an emergency. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about this.

Missed dose
Take this medicine based on the schedule your doctor orders. If you have been taught to give your medicine at home and you miss a dose or forget to use the medicine, contact and tell your doctor right away.

Warning while using this medicine
• Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
• Tell your doctor if you have liver disease, kidney disease, heart disease, high blood pressure, a bleeding problem (such as hemophilia), stomach or intestinal ulcers, or a history of heavy or unusual monthly periods, diabetes or cancer.
• Tell your doctor if you are allergic to sulfites.
• Tell your doctor if you recently had a stroke, spinal anesthesia (numbing medicine in the back), surgery to the eyes, brain or spine, or any other recent surgery. Watch for any bleeding from open areas such as around the injection site. If you have any bleeding or injuries, tell your doctor right away.
• You may bleed and bruise more easily while you are using this medicine. Be careful to avoid injuries. Everyday behaviors, such as blowing your nose, clipping fingernails, shaving, or doing sports, can increase your risk for injury. Talk with your doctor about how to protect yourself while taking this medicine.
• Tell any doctor or dentist who treats you that you are using this medicine. You may need to stop using this medicine for several days before having surgery or medical tests.
• Your doctor will need to check your blood at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to keep all appointments.
• Avoid starting or stopping other medicines without telling the doctor who ordered the heparin. This included prescription medicines and non-prescription medicines, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products.
• Some prescription and non-prescription pain, arthritis or cold-relief products may contain a medicine that can increase your risk of bleeding while using heparin.
• Aspirin may be prescribed to patients who are also taking heparin. If your provider has not prescribed aspirin for your care, DO NOT take aspirin unless your doctor has approved using the two medicines together.
• Keep all medicine out of reach of children. Never share your medicine with anyone.
Possible side effects

Tell your doctor right away or seek emergency help if you are not able to reach your doctor if you have:

- Allergic reaction: itching or hives, swelling of the face, tongue, throat or hands, trouble breathing or chest tightness
- Dizziness, lightheadedness, or fainting
- Chest pain, trouble breathing, or coughing up blood
- Increased menstrual bleeding
- Bloody, pink or brown colored urine
- Redness, pain, swelling, itching, blistering, sores or rash where the needle is placed
- Severe stomach pain, vomiting blood, bloody or black tarry stools
- Unusual bleeding, bruising or weakness. If you fall or have an injury to your head, seek medical care, even if you feel okay.
- Check with your doctor right away if you have pain in your chest, groin, or legs, especially the calves; problems breathing; a sudden, severe headache; slurred speech; a sudden, unexplained shortness of breath; a sudden loss of coordination; or vision changes while using or after stopping this medicine.

If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

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