

Enoxaparin

What you need to know

Enoxaparin is a low-molecular-weight heparin that's given by injection (a shot). The brand name for enoxaparin is Lovenox®. It's used to thin the blood and help keep blood clots from forming in your veins.

How long do I need to take enoxaparin shots?

Most people take shots for 5 to 6 days. However, it depends on your own medical condition. Some people use enoxaparin for less time, others need to stay on it longer. Your doctor or member of your care team will tell you when to stop taking enoxaparin.

When should I take enoxaparin?

Try to take your shot at the same time each day. If you're taking 2 shots a day, try to take them about 12 hours apart (for example at 8:00 in the morning and again at 8:00 at night.).

Follow your doctor's instructions carefully. Use a calendar to help you remember to take your medicine. Call your doctor or member of your care team right away if you miss a shot.

When do I need to see my care team?

While you're on enoxaparin, you'll have clinic appointments and blood tests. Your care team will give you a schedule for these. Make sure to get your blood tests on time, and keep your clinic appointments.

It's important to get your blood test when it's due. If you can't get your blood test on the day it's due, call a member of your care team.

Can I take my other medicines while I'm taking enoxaparin shots?

Only take medicine that your doctor has prescribed for you. If you're taking warfarin at the same time as enoxaparin, take the warfarin exactly as your care team has prescribed. Only use over-the-counter medicines and supplements if your doctor or pharmacist has told you they're okay to take.

Are there any side effects from enoxaparin?

The most important side effect is increased bleeding. This happens because enoxaparin thins your blood. When your blood is thin, you might have a harder time healing if you cut or bruise yourself.

When to call your care team

The following signs could mean you have increased bleeding. Call a member of your care team right away if you have:

- More bruises than usual.
- Bleeding from your nose, mouth or gums for no reason.
- Bleeding that won't stop, such as from a cut or from taking your shot.

- Blood in your urine or bowel movement (your urine might look pink or brown, or your bowel movements might look black or like tar.)

You should also call if you've had any of these for more than 24 hours:

- Pain or swelling in your leg, foot, or hip.
- Leg swelling that suddenly gets worse.
- Headache, dizziness, or trouble breathing.
- Suddenly feeling much more tired than normal.
- Running a fever, throwing up, or feeling sick to your stomach.
- Chest pain or heartbeat that's faster than usual.

What else do I need to know about enoxaparin?

- Don't ever let anyone else use your enoxaparin.
- Keep enoxaparin at room temperature or in the refrigerator.
- Don't put enoxaparin in the freezer.
- Ask your care team how to safely get rid of your used syringes.
- Keep enoxaparin, your used syringes, and all medicine out of the reach of children.