

Heparin

Names	The generic drug name is heparin (HEP-a-rin). Brand names include Liquaemin®, Panheparin®, and Lipo-Hepin®. There may be other brand names for this medication.
How is it Administered?	Heparin is given intravenously (IV), which means it is given through a small catheter (tube) that has been placed in a vein. Heparin can also be injected just under the skin (subcutaneous injection).
Why Am I on Heparin and How Does it Work?	<p>Heparin is in a class of medications called anticoagulants (blood thinners). It works by decreasing the ability of the blood to clot.</p> <p>Heparin is given to prevent blood clots from forming in people who are at risk of developing blood clots due to a medical procedure or an underlying medical condition. If a blood clot has already formed in a blood vessel, heparin may be given to prevent it from getting larger. Heparin cannot be used to make an existing clot smaller.</p> <p>Heparin is also used in small amounts to prevent blood clots from forming inside intravenous catheters.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have ever had an allergic reaction to heparin, beef, pork, other medications, foods, preservatives, or dyes• have or have ever had any type of a bleeding disorder; have a low level of platelets or bleeding that cannot be stopped• have a fever, infection, ulcers, high blood pressure, liver disease, or a tube that drains your stomach or intestines• recently had a spinal tap (lumbar puncture); spinal anesthesia, heart attack, or surgery• currently have your menstrual period, are pregnant, or are breastfeeding• have had a thrombocytopenic reaction to a previous use of heparin or formed new blood clots while on heparin <p>These drugs can interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you take.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Redness, pain, bruising, or soreness at the injection site
- Mild itching of feet
- Bluish-colored skin

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room if you have signs of a severe allergic reaction (swelling, tingling in your face, mouth, tongue or throat; chest tightness; trouble breathing; dizziness; heart palpitations; hives.) Let your doctor know you have gone to the ER or been admitted.

Let your doctor or nurse know immediately if you have:

- unusual bruising or bleeding such as bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm /mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin (a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots)
- any sign of a blood clot: sudden numbness or weakness, severe headache, slurred speech, vision or speech problems, chest pain, sudden cough, wheezing, swelling or warmth in one of both legs
- severe pain in stomach, lower back, or groin
- swelling or bruising in your lower stomach or groin area
- nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite
- unusual tiredness
- fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher, chills, runny nose, watery eyes
- trouble breathing

What Else Should I Know About Heparin?

- Tell all your doctors and dentists that you are using heparin.
- Tell your doctor if you smoke or use tobacco products and if you stop smoking at any time during your treatment with heparin.
- If you become pregnant while using heparin, call your doctor.
- If you are using these injections at home, make sure you understand your dose and schedule, and how to give the injection.
- Your doctor should check your progress at regular visits. They make take a blood test to check on clotting and adjust your dose.
- Hair loss may occur with long-term use.
- For more information, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.