



Patient Education

Heparin (HEP-a-rin)

Other Names	Liquaemin®, Panheparin®, Lipo-Hepin®. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Administered?	Heparin is a solution that can be injected into a vein or injected deep under the skin. It should not be injected into muscle. A more dilute form may be injected into an IV catheter.
Why am I Taking Heparin?	<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>
How Does Heparin Work?	Heparin is in a class of medications called anticoagulants (blood thinners). It works by decreasing the ability of the blood to clot.