A Pediatric Patient’s Guide to Using Enoxaparin

Enoxaparin (ee-noks-a-PA-rin)
Brand Name: Lovenox®

The purpose of this brochure is to inform you about your child’s anticoagulation therapy to ensure its effectiveness and your child's safety.
What is enoxaparin?
Enoxaparin belongs to a class of drugs called anticoagulants. Enoxaparin decreases the blood’s ability to clot, which helps prevent harmful clots from forming in the body.

Why does my child need enoxaparin?
Your child’s body forms blood clots to help stop bleeding. However, your child’s body may also be making clots that are not needed which can cause serious medical problems. Your child needs to take enoxaparin either to prevent a blood clot from forming or to treat a blood clot that has already formed.

Enoxaparin is used in patients who have clots in the legs and lungs, or in patients at risk of developing clots because of restricted mobility, irregular rapid heartbeats, heart surgeries or other surgeries.

If you are not sure why your child needs enoxaparin, make sure to ask your child’s healthcare provider.

How does enoxaparin work?
Enoxaparin stops some of the clotting proteins from working. Enoxaparin begins to reduce clotting within 6 hours. The full effect may take 24 hours to occur.

How much enoxaparin does my child take?
Will the dose change?
The amount of enoxaparin your child takes is determined by blood tests that measure the enoxaparin level. The test results tell the healthcare provider whether your child’s dose needs to be changed. Your child’s dose of enoxaparin may change initially in the hospital depending on the blood test, but will likely remain the same at home. Be sure to give exactly the dose as directed by your healthcare provider.

What other information should I know about enoxaparin?
Do not use enoxaparin if your child is allergic to pork products or if your child had a previous hypersensitivity reaction to enoxaparin or heparin.

Your child may wear a MedicAlert or other special bracelet to let medical personnel know immediately about the medicine in case of an accident of emergency.

Although physical exercise and activity are important, your child should avoid contact and competitive sports that may result in a serious fall or injury. It may be necessary to modify your child’s school physical education program. You should speak with your child’s healthcare provider about any physical activity restrictions.

Store the enoxaparin supply at room temperature in a safe place, out of the reach of children. Do not mix with other injections or infusions. Dispose of any syringes and needles into the sharps container.

What should I do if I think I have given my child too much enoxaparin?
Call your healthcare provider immediately, even if you don’t see any unusual symptoms right away.
- Bruises not caused by any apparent reason
- Excessive bleeding from cuts or scratches or surgical wounds
- Red or black (tarry) bowel movements
- Red or dark brown urine
- Very heavy menstrual bleeding (girls only)

If any noticeable bleeding does not stop within a few minutes (i.e. nosebleed) your healthcare provider may ask your child to go to the emergency room at the nearest hospital. The enoxaparin dose may need to be held or changed as directed by your healthcare provider.

**What should I know about Drug Interactions?**

Some medications may increase your child’s risk of bleeding. Always check with your child’s healthcare provider before taking any new medications or stopping any medications your child has been taking. This includes any prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, and supplements. Some over-the-counter medications that may interact with enoxaparin include aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, some cold medicines, and herbal supplements. Keep a record of all medications that your child is taking, both prescription & nonprescription.

**What should I do if my child misses a dose?**

Give the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose & return to your child’s regular schedule. Do not give double doses or extra doses. Do not change the dose or stop your child’s medicine without the direction of your healthcare provider.

**When does my child take the medicine?**

It is important for your child to receive their enoxaparin dose at the same time everyday. Depending on your child’s indication, it may be given once daily or twice daily. Be sure to choose a time that will be convenient for you and your child.

**How do I give my child the enoxaparin dose?**

Be sure to discuss proper subcutaneous injection technique with your nurse or pharmacist before you administer enoxaparin for the first time. Injecting enoxaparin will become easier after the first few times.

1. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly
2. Sit or lie your child in a comfortable position
3. Make sure the amount in the syringe is the correct dose ordered by your healthcare provider. *If using a pre-filled syringe, be sure the medicine amount is correctly matched with the ordered dose. * If using a graduated pre-filled syringe (the prescribed amount is less than a full syringe), be sure to slowly expel out the excess medicine into the sharps container until the contents align with the appropriate medicine amount as ordered, and recap the syringe. *If using a vial, be sure to use a subcutaneous syringe to measure the appropriate medicine amount as ordered, and recap the syringe.
4. Choose an appropriate injection site on your child. The medicine should be given into an injection site that is fatty tissue directly under the skin. In infants & young children, this could be fatty parts of the thighs. In older children, this could be the fatty parts of the skin on the right or left side of the stomach, at least 2 inches away from the belly button. Alternate injection sites with each dose. Do not inject into the muscle.
5. Clean the injection site with an alcohol swab and let dry. A wet site may increase stinging at time of injection.

6. Remove needle cap by pulling it straight off syringe and discard in sharps container.

7. Hold syringe like a pencil in your writing hand.

8. With other hand, pinch an inch of the cleansed area to fold in skin. Insert subcutaneous needle into the fold of skin. Do not inject into muscle.

9. Press plunger with your thumb until syringe is empty.

10. Pull needle straight out at the same angle it was inserted, and release skin fold.

11. Place used syringe in sharps container.

What potential side effects should I watch for?

The most common side effects include mild local injection site reactions such as irritation, pain, bruising and redness of the skin.

If any of the following signs of bleeding occur, contact your healthcare provider:

- Nose bleeds
- Coughing up blood
- Vomiting blood