

Enoxaparin

When you have, or are at risk of having Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) or a pulmonary embolism (PE), you may be prescribed Enoxaparin.

You may also be familiar with its brand name, Lovenox.

With DVT blood clots can form in the deep veins of your body; usually in your legs, and can cause serious health problems.

Sometimes a clot may break away and travel through your blood vessels. Called an 'embolus', this moving clot can travel to the heart or lungs and cause severe complications including heart attack, difficulty breathing – even death.

Enoxaparin is an injectable medicine used to break up these clots and keep the blood thin.

It is a powerful medicine. Some people should not take it. Do not take Enoxaparin if you are allergic to: any of its ingredients, other blood thinner medications like Heparin, or pork.

Before taking Enoxaparin, talk to your doctor about your health history. Do not take Enoxaparin if you have active or uncontrolled bleeding or low levels of platelets in your blood.

Before taking Enoxaparin, tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant, planning to get pregnant or are breastfeeding.

Talk to your doctor if you breastfeed to discuss if the benefits outweigh the risks

A different medication may be available for you.

Some over-the-counter medications you may take can increase your risk of bleeding. When taking Enoxaparin, avoid: Aspirin; Ibuprofen like Advil or Motrin; and Naproxen like Aleve.

Talk to your healthcare provider about your medication options.

When taking Enoxaparin you will have regular blood tests to see how well it is working.

Keep all of your healthcare appointments.

The most common side effect of Enoxaparin is bleeding or bruising. Be careful to avoid getting a cut or injury.

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Some other common side effects include: anemia, headache, dizziness, and shortness of breath.

If you do notice any of these side effects contact your healthcare provider about how to manage them.

And if you have an allergic reaction; cough up blood, have blood in your urine or bowel movement, or bleeding that won't stop; or have passed out; call 911 for emergency help.

This is not the complete list of side effects. Make sure you discuss all possible side effects with your healthcare provider.

Enoxaparin should be injected into your abdomen, or stomach area, 2 inches from your belly button.

Alternate sides of your belly button with each injection. This helps keep your skin and underlying tissues healthy.

You may be told to take your Enoxaparin every 12 hours or you may need to take it once daily.

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible.

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip your missed dose and return to your normal medicine schedule.

Store Enoxaparin at room temperature, not too hot or too cold, and away from moisture and direct sunlight.

Keep it out of sight and out of reach of any children.

When you are done taking Enoxaparin, contact your healthcare provider or pharmacist about the proper way to dispose of any unused medicine.

Enoxaparin can reduce your risk of dangerous blood clots. But it is a powerful medication that should only be taken exactly as prescribed.

If you have any questions about Enoxaparin, ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.