

# Enoxaparin

(en-ocks-a-par-in)

**Category:** Anticoagulant; Blood Thinner

**Other Names for this Medication:** Lovenox®, Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH), Fractionated Heparin

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** None. **Human:** Enoxaparin is available in several different concentrations for injection.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

## Key Information

- ▶ Must be injected under the skin (subcutaneously, SC); be sure you understand how to properly give the shots; shots may be painful.
- ▶ Several shots a day may be required.
- ▶ Bleeding is not likely, but can occur. Contact your veterinarian immediately if this happens.
- ▶ If your animal is listless (lacking energy or interest in things), appears to be having trouble breathing or walking, or loses the use of its rear legs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## How is this medication useful?

Enoxaparin is a blood thinner used to prevent blood clots in animals. This medicine may also be given before surgery to prevent blood clot formation.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

## What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

## When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to pork products or have had an allergic reaction to dalteparin or heparin.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That have low platelet counts or have other conditions where bleeding can occur.
- ▶ With kidney disease.

If your animal matches any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks of using the drug versus the benefits.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

### **Common but not serious side effects include:**

- ▶ Pain, redness, and itching at the injection site.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

### **Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:**

- ▶ Excessive bleeding usually does not occur with medication, but it is possible. Do not allow your pet to be in situations where it might be injured or cut.
- ▶ Allergic reactions. If your animal appears to rub its face on the floor, acts "itchy", has swelling of the face or throat, or has trouble breathing, take it to the closest veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ Fever. Animals with a fever may have a low energy level and poor appetite.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## If my pet gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

It is important to follow the label instructions exactly as overdoses can cause significant bleeding. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

### How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Because this drug must be injected, be sure you understand the proper dosage, location, and method for giving the shots. Enoxaparin should only be injected under the skin (subcutaneously) and not into a muscle or vein. A small needle, provided by your pharmacist or veterinarian, is used.
- ▶ Use a new needle and syringe for each injection; do not reuse needles and syringes.
- ▶ Enoxaparin is a very potent drug and is given in small amounts; make sure your pharmacist or veterinarian show you exactly how much to inject every day.
- ▶ Do not shake the vial as this may break up the very fragile drug molecule and destroy the effectiveness of the drug.
- ▶ Change the injection (shot) sites daily and do not give it too many times in the same spot.
- ▶ Do not use any medication that has changed colors or has specks in it.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

### What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

It is very important to give the drug as directed or clots can form, but if you miss a dose, give it when you remember. If it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

### How should I store this medication?

- ▶ The injection liquid is usually stored at room temperature; however, if your veterinarian or pharmacist has drawn the drug into syringes, they may suggest it be stored in the refrigerator.
- ▶ Open vials should be discarded after 30 days.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

### Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

- ▶ There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Be careful to avoid accidental needle sticks.
- ▶ Be sure to dispose of used syringes and needles properly. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can assist you in obtaining a safe sharps container to dispose of used needles and syringes.

### How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

### What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ If you are injecting this medication (giving shots) at home, place used needles and syringes in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used. Your veterinarian or pharmacist will help you obtain these containers. Be careful not to accidentally stick yourself; do not attempt to disconnect the needle from the syringe. Keep containers out of reach of children and pets. Once about ¾ full, dispose containers according to your community guidelines. Check with your local trash removal services or health department (listed online and in the city or county government [blue] pages in your phone book) to see which disposal methods are available in your area.
- ▶ Many pain medications (eg, aspirin, carprofen, etodolac, deracoxib), as well as other drugs that affect blood clotting (eg, warfarin, clopidogrel) can also prevent the blood from clotting. Do not use any other medications, even those purchased without a prescription, in your pet without first consulting your veterinarian.
- ▶ Your veterinarian will need to monitor your animal closely while on this medication. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.

**If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.**