



# Enoxaparin (Lovenox®)

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## What is enoxaparin (Lovenox®)?

- Enoxaparin is a blood thinner medication. This medication is also called by its brand name, Lovenox®.
- Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) is used to prevent blood clots from forming in your body or to treat blood clots after they have formed.
  - Blood clots can block a blood vessel, cutting off blood supply to the area.
  - Rarely, clots can break into pieces and travel in the bloodstream. Those pieces may get stuck in the heart (causing a heart attack), the lungs (causing a pulmonary embolus), or in the brain (causing a stroke).

## How should I take enoxaparin (Lovenox®)?

- Take enoxaparin (Lovenox®) exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) is injected into your skin. You can give yourself these shots or have a home caregiver give them to you. If you or your caregiver has questions about the medication or how to give the injection, contact your doctor or anticoagulation provider. Follow the steps below to inject enoxaparin (Lovenox®):
  1. Wash your hands with soap and water. Dry your hands with a clean towel.
  2. Sit or lie down in a comfortable position, so you can easily see the area of your stomach where you will be injecting the medication.

3. Pick an area on the left or right side of your stomach, at least 2 inches away from your belly button. Clean the area with an alcohol swab and let the area dry.
  4. Carefully pull the needle cap off the syringe and throw the cap away. Be careful not to press the plunger on the syringe yet. Don't set the syringe down or touch the needle.
  5. Hold the syringe like a pencil in the hand you write with. Then, with your other hand, pinch an inch of the belly skin you cleaned to make a fold in the skin. Insert the full length of the needle straight down (at a 90° angle) into the fold of the skin.
  6. While still pinching your skin, use your thumb to press the plunger on the syringe until the syringe is empty.
  7. Pull the needle straight out of your skin (at the same angle you inserted it) and stop pinching the skin.
  8. Point the needle down and away from yourself and other people. Push down on the plunger to activate the safety device (a protective sleeve will cover the needle and you'll hear a "click" sound).
  9. Put the used syringe in a sharps container or a hard container that can be sealed.
- Sometimes enoxaparin (Lovenox®) is given with another blood thinner called warfarin (Coumadin®) until the warfarin starts working. After your warfarin medication becomes effective, you won't need to take enoxaparin (Lovenox®) anymore. Your doctor or anticoagulation provider will tell you if you need to stop using enoxaparin (Lovenox®). Never decide to stop using enoxaparin (Lovenox®) on your own.

### **How should I store enoxaparin (Lovenox®)?**

Store this medication at room temperature.

## **What should I know about the risks of taking enoxaparin (Lovenox®)?**

- Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it reduces your blood's ability to clot. While you take enoxaparin (Lovenox®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) can cause bleeding which can be serious. You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take enoxaparin (Lovenox®) and:
  - You are over 75 years old.
  - You have kidney problems.
  - You have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or recurs (goes away and then comes back).
  - You have a stomach ulcer.
  - You take other medications that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
    - Aspirin or products that contain aspirin
    - Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including ibuprofen and naproxen
    - Clopidogrel (Plavix®), prasugrel (Effient®), or ticagrelor (Brilinta®)

## **What are the possible side effects of enoxaparin (Lovenox®)?**

- Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it reduces your blood's ability to clot. While you take enoxaparin (Lovenox®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- For some people, enoxaparin (Lovenox®) can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Get medical help immediately if you get any of these symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
  - Chest pain or chest tightness

- Swelling of your face or tongue
- Trouble breathing, or wheezing
- Feeling dizzy or faint

## **When should I call my doctor or the Anticoagulation Clinic?**

Call your doctor, or call us, if:

- You start or stop any medications, including over-the-counter medications or herbal supplements. These may affect the way enoxaparin (Lovenox®) works.
- You are having a surgery or a procedure, as you may have special instructions on how to take enoxaparin (Lovenox®).
- You need a medication refill. Try to tell your doctor before you are out of enoxaparin (Lovenox®) so you do not run out.
- You have any unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
  - Unusual bleeding from the gums
  - Nose bleeds that happen often
  - Menstrual (period) or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - Blood in your urine (pee that is red or the color of coffee or cola)
  - Bruises that happen without a known cause, or bruises that get larger

## **When should I get emergency help?**

**Call 911 immediately if you have any of the following serious conditions:**

- You have any signs or symptoms of serious bleeding:
  - Severe bleeding, or bleeding you can't control
  - Red or black stools (poop that looks like tar)
  - Coughing up blood or blood clots
  - Vomiting up blood, or if your vomit looks like coffee grounds
  - Uncontrolled bleeding from your nose or gums

- Cuts that will not stop bleeding
- You have any signs or symptoms of a stroke:
  - Dizziness, sudden loss of vision, or a sudden severe headache
  - Numbness or weakness in any arm or leg
  - Trouble speaking, or slurred speech
  - Drooping on one side of your face
- You have signs or symptoms of blood clots:
  - Sudden severe shortness of breath
  - Chest pain
  - Swelling, redness, heat or pain in any arm or leg

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