Heparin (HEP a rin)

U.S. Brand Names  Hep-Lock; Hep-Lock U/P; HepFlush®-10

Canadian Brand Names  Hepalean®; Hepalean® Leo; Hepalean®-LOK

Mexican Brand Names  Proparin

Pharmacologic Category  Anticoagulant

Reasons not to take this medicine

- If you have an allergy to heparin or any other part of this medicine.
- If you are allergic to pork products, talk with healthcare provider.
- If you have a sulfite allergy, talk with healthcare provider.
- Tell healthcare provider if you are allergic to any medicine. Make sure to tell about the allergy and how it affected you. This includes telling about rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other symptoms involved.
- If you have any of the following conditions: Bleeding problems or low platelet count.

What is this medicine used for?

- This medicine is used to thin the blood so that clots will not form.
- This medicine is used to treat blood clots.
- This medicine is used to decrease heart attacks in patients who have unstable angina or mild heart attacks.

How does it work?

- Heparin changes the body's clotting system. It thins the blood to prevent clots from forming.

How is it best taken?

- This medicine is given as a shot into a vein or into the fatty part of the skin.
- This medicine is given as a shot into a vein over a period of time.
- Your healthcare provider may teach you how to give the shot.
• Wash hands before and after use.

• Move site where you give the shot with each shot.

• Throw away needles in needle/sharp disposal box and return box to healthcare provider when full.

**What do I do if I miss a dose? (does not apply to patients in the hospital)**

• Take a missed dose as soon as possible.

• If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular schedule.

• Do not take a double dose or extra doses.

**What are the precautions when taking this medicine?**

• Wear disease medical alert identification.

• If you are 65 or older, use this medicine with caution. You could have more side effects.

• Tell dentists, surgeons, and other healthcare providers that you use this medicine.

• You may bleed more easily. Be careful. Avoid injury. Use soft toothbrush, electric razor.

• Check medicines with healthcare provider. This medicine may not mix well with other medicines.

• Talk with healthcare provider before using other: aspirin, aspirin-containing products, blood thinners, garlic, ginseng, ginkgo, ibuprofen or like products, pain medicines, or vitamin E.

• Use caution to prevent injury and avoid falls or accidents.

• Tell healthcare provider if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant.

• Tell healthcare provider if you are breast-feeding.

**What are some possible side effects of this medicine?**

• Bleeding problems.

• Irritation where the shot is given.

• Weakened bones with long-term use.

• Severe allergic reactions can rarely occur.

**What should I monitor?**

• Change in condition being treated. Is it better, worse, or about the same?

• Signs or symptoms of bleeding.

• Check blood work regularly. Talk with healthcare provider.
• Follow up with healthcare provider.

**Reasons to call healthcare provider immediately**

• If you suspect an overdose, call your local poison control center or emergency department immediately.

• Signs of a life-threatening reaction. These include wheezing; chest tightness; fever; itching; bad cough; blue skin color; fits; or swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat.

• Severe dizziness or passing out.

• Falls or accidents, especially if you hit your head. Talk with healthcare provider even if you feel fine.

• Swelling or pain of leg or arm.

• Significant change in thinking clearly and logically.

• Severe headache.

• Unusual bruising or bleeding.

• Any rash.

• No improvement in condition or feeling worse.

**How should I store this medicine?**

• Store at room temperature. Do not freeze.

**General statements**

• If you have a life-threatening allergy, wear allergy identification at all times.

• Do not share your medicine with others and do not take anyone else's medicine.

• Keep all medicine out of the reach of children and pets.

• Most medicines can be thrown away in household trash after mixing with coffee grounds or kitty litter and sealing in a plastic bag.

• Keep a list of all your medicines (prescription, natural products, supplements, vitamins, over-the-counter) with you. Give this list to healthcare provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, physician assistant).

• Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or in Canada to Health Canada's Canada Vigilance Program at 1-866-234-2345.

• Talk with healthcare provider before starting any new medicine, including over-the-counter, natural products, or vitamins.

**Disclaimer**  We want you to get the most benefit you can from your medicine. This patient leaflet is a summary of useful information to help you understand and take it safely. Other information about this medicine may be important for you to know. Please talk with your healthcare provider for more information and your special health needs.