

# HEPARIN INJECTION

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Heparin Injection. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have benefits and risks. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Heparin Injection against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

This medicine is likely to be used while you are at the clinic or in hospital. If possible, please read this leaflet carefully before this medicine is given to you. In some cases this leaflet may be given to you after the medicine has been used.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet.**

You may need to read it again.

### What HEPARIN INJECTION is used for

Heparin Injection belongs to a group of medicines known as anticoagulants. Anticoagulants work by decreasing the clotting ability of your blood and help stop clots forming in the blood vessels.

Anticoagulants are sometimes called blood thinners, although they do not actually thin the blood. Heparin will not dissolve blood clots that have already formed, but it may prevent any clots that have already formed

from becoming larger and causing serious problems.

Heparin Injection is used for prevention and treatment of diseases caused by blood clots such as certain blood vessel, heart and lung conditions. It is also used to prevent blood clots from forming during surgery, dialysis or blood transfusions.

Heparin Injection may be used for the treatment of other conditions that are not mentioned above. Your doctor will be able to tell you about the specific condition for which you have been prescribed Heparin Injection.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

### Before you are given HEPARIN INJECTION

#### *When you must not be given it*

**Do not use Heparin Injection if you:**

- have an allergy to heparin
- have, or may have, a bleeding disease or a problem with your blood vessels
- have a low blood platelet count

If you are not sure whether any of these apply to you, check with your doctor.

#### *Before you are given it*

**Tell your doctor if:**

1. **you have any allergies to:**

- any other medicine
  - any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes
2. **you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant**  
your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of being given heparin during pregnancy.
  3. **you are breast-feeding or plan to breast feed**  
your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of being given heparin whilst breastfeeding.
  4. **you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**
    - heart problems or high blood pressure
    - blood disease or bleeding problems
    - heavy or unusual periods
    - medical or dental surgery
    - stomach ulcer
    - liver disease
    - kidney disease

#### *Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines and heparin may interfere with each other. These include:

- pain relieving medicines such as aspirin and ibuprofen

- medicines for heart and circulation problems such as digitalis, nitroglycerine and dipyridamole
- medicines for hayfever such as antihistamines
- medicines for rheumatoid arthritis such as hydroxychloroquine
- anti-inflammatory medicines such as indomethacin and phenylbutazone
- nicotine
- anticlotting medicines such as aprotinin and warfarin
- medicines which cause increased volume of urine such as spironolactone, triamterene and amiloride
- potassium supplements such as potassium containing salt substitutes

Your doctor will advise you about continuing to take other medicines while you are receiving Heparin Injection.

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## How HEPARIN INJECTION is given

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### *How it is given*

Heparin Injection is given into a vein, or by injecting under the skin. Sometimes it may be diluted and given to you as a slow injection into one of your veins (this is called an intravenous infusion). Heparin Injection must only be given by a doctor or nurse.

### *How much is given*

Your doctor will decide what dose, how often and how long you will receive Heparin Injection. This depends on your condition and other factors, such as age, blood tests, method it is being given and whether or not other medicines are being given at the same time.

To prevent clots forming, you will usually be given injections deeply

under the skin every 8 - 12 hours for up to a week, depending on your condition.

To help clots that have already formed you will be given Heparin Injection into a vein, either as a continuous injection (infusion), or as an injection every 4 - 6 hours. A deep injection under the skin every 8 - 12 hours can also be used.

### ***If you are given too much (overdose)***

This rarely happens as Heparin Injection is administered under the care of a highly trained doctor.

However, if you are given too much heparin, you may experience some of the effects listed under "Side effects" below.

Your doctor has information on how to recognise and treat an overdose. Ask your doctor if you have any concerns.

In the case of an overdose, immediately tell your doctor or telephone the Poisons Information Centre (in Australia, phone 13 11 26; in New Zealand, phone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you have side effects after being given Heparin Injection. You may need urgent medical attention.

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## Side effects

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### **Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given heparin.**

Like other medicines, heparin can cause some side effects. If they occur, most are likely to be minor or temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

### **Ask your doctor or nurse to answer any questions that you may have.**

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

### **Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience any of the following:**

- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal e.g. unexplained nosebleeds, heavy periods, bleeding from gums when brushing teeth
- abdominal or stomach pain, back pain, blood in urine or stools, vomiting of blood
- signs of allergy such as a rash, itching, hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing
- numbness, tingling or muscle weakness, abnormal function or loss of control of your bowel or urine

These side effects are serious. You may need urgent medical attention

### **Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:**

- change in skin colour or pain around the injection site
- fever
- chills
- runny nose
- watering eyes
- nausea and vomiting
- headache
- itchy soles of the feet

These are also side effects of heparin. Mostly these are mild and short-lived.

Osteoporosis, collection of blood under skin, persistent painful erection, irregular heart beat, muscular weakness, fatigue and tingling of the hands, feet or tongue and unusual hair loss may also occur but these side effects are less common and rare.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. If

you notice any other effects, check with your doctor. Some side effects may only be seen by your doctor.

### **Storage**

Heparin Injection will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The injection is kept in a cool dry place, where the temperature stays below 25°C.

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## **Product Description**

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### ***What it looks like***

Heparin Injection is a clear, colourless to straw coloured solution in a plastic ampoule.

Heparin Injection can be identified by an Australian Registration Number, which is found on the packaging:

#### **Porcine mucous**

AUST R 49232 - Heparin Injection - 5,000IU/5mL (sterile) - Steriluer<sup>®</sup> ampoule (50's)

AUST R 49232 - Heparin Injection - 5,000IU/5mL (sterile) - Steriluer<sup>®</sup> ampoule (10's)

AUST R 49236 - Heparin Injection - 25,000IU/5mL (sterile) - Steriluer<sup>®</sup> ampoule (50's)

### ***Ingredients***

Heparin Injection contains Heparin Sodium BP (porcine) 1000IU/mL or 5000IU/mL in Water for Injections BP. It does not contain a preservative.

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## **Manufacturer/Sponsor**

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### **Manufacturer:**

Pfizer (Perth) Pty Limited  
ABN 32 051 824 956  
15 Brodie Hall Drive,  
Bentley WA 6102 Australia

### **Sponsor and Distributor in**

#### **Australia:**

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd  
ABN 50 008 422 348  
38-42 Wharf Road  
West Ryde NSW 2114 Australia

#### **Distributor in New Zealand:**

Pfizer New Zealand Limited  
PO Box 3998  
Auckland  
New Zealand

This Consumer Medicine Information was written in November 1998.

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