# How and Where to Give Subcutaneous Enoxaparin/Lovenox Injections

Enoxaparin is an injectable medicine. It is used to help prevent blood clots from developing in your veins. Health care providers often use anticoagulants like enoxaparin to prevent clots following surgery. Enoxaparin is also used in combination with other medicines to treat blood clots and heart attacks. If blood clots are left untreated, they can be life threatening.

Enoxaparin comes in single-use syringes. You inject enoxaparin through a syringe into your belly (*abdomen*). You should change the injection site each time you give yourself a shot. Continue the enoxaparin injections as directed by your health care provider. Your health care provider will use blood clotting test results to decide when you can safely stop using enoxaparin injections. If your health care provider prescribes any additional medicines, use the medicines exactly as directed.

#### **HOW DO I INJECT ENOXAPARIN?**

- 1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
- 2. Clean the selected injection site as directed by your health care provider.
- 3. Remove the needle cap by pulling it straight off the syringe.
- 4. Hold the syringe like a pencil using your writing hand.
- 5. Use your other hand to pinch and hold an inch of the cleansed skin.
- 6. Insert the entire needle straight down into the fold of skin.
- 7. Push the plunger with your thumb until the syringe is empty.
- 8. Pull the needle straight out of your skin.
- 9. Enoxaparin injection prefilled syringes and graduated prefilled syringes are available with a system that shields the needle after injection. After you have completed your injection and removed the needle from your skin, firmly push down on the plunger. The protective sleeve will automatically cover the needle and you will hear a click. The click means the needle is safely covered.
- **10.** Place the syringe in the nearest needle box, also called a sharps container. If you do not have a sharps container, you can use a hard-sided plastic container with a secure lid, such as an empty laundry detergent bottle.

# WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- **★ Do not** use enoxaparin if:
  - □ You have allergies to heparin or pork products.
  - □ You have been diagnosed with a condition called thrombocytopenia.
- **★ Do not** use the syringe or needle more than one time.
- ★ Use medicines only as directed by your health care provider.
- ★ Changes in medicines, supplements, diet, and illness can affect your anticoagulation therapy. Be sure to inform your health care provider of any of these changes.
- ★ It is important that you tell all of your health care providers and your dentist that you are taking an anticoagulant, especially if you are injured or plan to have any type of procedure.
- ★ While on anticoagulants, you will need to have blood tests done routinely as directed by your health care provider.
- ★ While using this medicine, avoid physical activities or sports that could result in a fall or cause injury.
- ★ Follow up with your laboratory test and health care provider appointments as directed. It is very important to keep your appointments. Not keeping appointments could result in a chronic or permanent injury, pain, or disability.
- ★ Before giving your medicine, you should make sure the injection is a clear and colorless or pale yellow solution. If your medicine becomes discolored or if there are particles in the syringe, **do not** use it and notify your health care provider.
- ★ Keep your medicine safely stored at room temperature.

## **SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:**

- ★ You develop any rashes on your skin.
- ★ You have large areas of bruising on your skin.
- ★ You have any worsening of the condition for which you take Enoxaparin.
- ★ You develop a fever.

### **SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:**

- ★ You develop bleeding problems such as:
- ★ Bleeding from the gums or nose that does not stop quickly
- ★ Vomiting blood or coughing up blood.
- ★ Blood in your urine.
- Blood in your stool, or stool that has a dark, tarry, or coffee grounds appearance.
- A cut that does not stop bleeding within 10 minutes.

- These symptoms may represent a serious problem that is an emergency. Do not wait to see if the symptoms will go away.
- ★ Get medical help right away. Call your local emergency services (911 in the U.S.). Do not drive yourself to the hospital.

This information is not intended to replace advice given to you by your health care provider. Make sure you discuss any questions you have with your health care provider.

