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Lovenox (enoxaparin)

Basics, Side Effects, Reviews & More



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Lovenox (enoxaparin) is good at preventing and treating various types of blood clots, but it requires injections every day.

COMMON BRANDS

Lovenox

DRUG CLASS

Anticoagulant

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Not a controlled medication

GENERIC STATUS

Lower-cost generic available

AVAILABILITY

Prescription only



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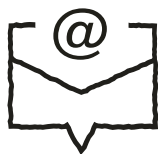
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October 4, 2020

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What is Lovenox (enoxaparin)?

How Lovenox (enoxaparin) works



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- Heart attack treatment

Lovenox (enoxaparin) dosage forms



Syringe

100mg/ml 150mg/ml 30mg/0.3ml 40mg/0.4ml 60mg/0.6ml 80mg/0.8ml 120mg/0.8ml



Vial

3ml of 300mg

Typical dosing for Lovenox (enoxaparin)

- For deep vein thrombosis (blood clot) prevention, the typical dose is 40 mg once a day or 30 mg every 12 hours.
- For other uses, the typical dose is 1 mg per kilogram of your body weight every 12 hours.

Frequently asked questions about Lovenox (enoxaparin)

✓ Does Lovenox (enoxaparin) dissolve clots?

Lovenox (enoxaparin) does not dissolve or break up blood clots in the body. Instead, it prevents existing blood clots from getting bigger or becoming loose and causing problems in other parts of the body, such as the lungs. Once Lovenox (enoxaparin) helps the clot become more stable, the body will naturally dissolve it over a period of time.

✓ How long does it take Lovenox (enoxaparin) to work?

After an injection of Lovenox (enoxaparin), it takes a few hours to reach acceptable levels in the body. So it works fairly quickly when used to prevent blood clots from forming. However, if you are using Lovenox (enoxaparin) to treat an existing blood

clot, that clot will typically take weeks to go away because the body needs to dissolve it. For example, people who start on Lovenox (enoxaparin) for a blood clot in the leg may continue to have pain or swelling for weeks or even months.

✓ What foods should you avoid if you are on Lovenox (enoxaparin)?

Lovenox (enoxaparin) doesn't typically interact with food, so you don't need to change your diet to take this medication safely. It's always a good idea to discuss your daily diet and eating habits with your provider at your appointments, though. If your doctor switches you over to [warfarin \(Coumadin\)](#), you will have to monitor your diet much more closely so that the warfarin works appropriately.

✓ Is Lovenox (enoxaparin) a heparin?





Lovenox (enoxaparin) belongs to a class of anticoagulants called low molecular weight heparins (LMWH). In some ways, Lovenox (enoxaparin) and heparin are similar because both medications affect blood-clotting proteins in order to thin the blood. However, Lovenox (enoxaparin) has a different structure that helps it to target a more specific type of clotting protein. When given as a subcutaneous (under the skin) injection, Lovenox (enoxaparin) also absorbs better, lasts longer, and requires fewer injections per day.

✓ How long do you stay on Lovenox (enoxaparin)?




Lovenox (enoxaparin) is recommended for various lengths of time, depending on the reason for use. Some people take it for a short period of time, especially if it's after a surgery or if they switch to an oral blood thinner. Others may need to be on Lovenox (enoxaparin) for years or even for the rest of their life, depending on their medical history.

Pros and cons of Lovenox (enoxaparin)





Pros

-  Is a good choice for preventing and treating blood clots, which can be life-threatening
-  Is a good option if you're pregnant or have cancer because it's considered to be safer than other blood thinners in these scenarios
-  Doesn't require regular blood tests to check Lovenox (enoxaparin) levels in your body
-  You don't have to watch your diet like with other blood thinners.

Cons

-  Is only available as an injection
-  If you are overweight, underweight, or have kidney disease, it doesn't work as well and you might need to have extra lab draws.
-  Is fairly expensive, even if you are getting the generic form

Pharmacist tips for Lovenox (enoxaparin)

-  Make sure you have checked with a healthcare provider on how to appropriately inject Lovenox (enoxaparin) into your abdomen. Rotate the injection site every day and don't rub it afterwards since this can cause bruising.
-  While taking Lovenox (enoxaparin), it can take longer to stop bleeding and you're more likely to bruise or bleed more easily. Make sure to inform all of your healthcare providers, including your dentist, that you're on this blood thinner.
-  Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking aspirin, anti-inflammatory drugs (like NSAIDs), or other blood thinning medications because they add to the effect of Lovenox (enoxaparin) and make you more likely to bleed.
-  If you fall and hit your head hard while taking Lovenox (enoxaparin), get medical help right away. This is especially true if you have a really bad headache or dizziness. Your provider may want to check you for a brain bleed.





Prices for Lovenox (enoxaparin) start at just \$75.50 with a GoodRx coupon. They're fast, easy-to-use and free!

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What are the side effects of Lovenox (enoxaparin)?

With any medication, there are risks and benefits. Even if the medication is working, you may experience some unwanted side effects.

-  Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:
 - Bleeding around the spinal cord after an epidural or spinal tap, which can cause paralysis
 - Greater risk of major bleeding
 - Low platelet counts
-  The following side effects may get better over time as your body gets used to the medication. Let your doctor know immediately if you continue to experience these symptoms or if they worsen over time.

Common side effects

- Major bleeding (1-4%)
- Abnormal liver enzymes (6%)
- Bleeding, bruising, redness, or pain where medication is injected

Other side effects

- Low red blood cell count (anemia)
- Bruising
- Fever
- Nausea

- Swelling
- Shortness of breath
- Low platelet counts
- Confusion
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Blood in urine

Source: [DailyMed](#)

The following side effects have also been reported:

Along with its needed effects, a medicine may cause some unwanted effects. Although not all of these side effects may occur, if they do occur they may need medical attention.

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What are the risks and warnings for Lovenox (enoxaparin)?

Lovenox (enoxaparin) can cause some serious health issues. This risk may be even higher for certain groups. If this worries you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about other options

Bleeding around the spinal cord

- **Risk factors:** *Spinal puncture (spinal tap) | Getting anesthesia near the spine (epidural anesthesia) | History of spinal surgery | Also using nonsteroidal anti-*

inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or other blood thinners

- ! If you're taking Lovenox (enoxaparin) and are getting either a spinal tap or an epidural, you're at a greater risk of bleeding around your spinal cord, which can make you paralyzed. Your provider will tell you how to stop taking Lovenox (enoxaparin) safely before you go through a back surgery or procedure. Call your provider immediately if you notice pain, tingling, a burning sensation, numbness, weakness, or are unable to urinate.

Greater risk of major bleeding

- **Risk factors:** *History of bleeding problems | Recent surgery or blood vessel puncture | Also using other blood thinners | Very high blood pressure | Recent damage to the stomach or intestines | Poor eyesight due to diabetes | Kidney problems*

Lovenox (enoxaparin) raises your risk of bleeding. Some types of bleeds, such as those in your abdomen or brain, can be very life-threatening. If you have one of the risk factors above, make sure to talk to your doctor about how to monitor for symptoms of uncontrolled bleeding.

Low platelet counts and clotting problems

- **Risk factors:** *History of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)*

Lovenox (enoxaparin) can cause your platelet counts to go down, and in rare cases, can cause a life-threatening condition called heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT). HIT happens when the immune system creates antibodies that affect the function of platelets, causing blood clots to form in various parts of the body. If you have had a history of low platelets or HIT, ask your doctor if Lovenox (enoxaparin) is safe to use.

Greater risk of blood clot on prosthetic heart valves in pregnant women

People with prosthetic (artificial) heart valves require long-term treatment with anticoagulants to prevent blood clots from forming in the heart. Pregnancy raises the risk of blood clots even more, and taking Lovenox (enoxaparin) by itself may not work as well in these situations. If you have a prosthetic heart valve and have become pregnant, your doctor may require you to get more frequent visits and lab tests to make sure the Lovenox (enoxaparin) is working appropriately.

Interactions between Lovenox (enoxaparin) and other medications

Lovenox (enoxaparin) may interact with certain medications or supplements. Always let your doctor and pharmacist know about any other medications or supplements (including prescribed and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and dietary or herbal supplements) that you are currently taking. The list below does not include all possible drug interactions with Lovenox (enoxaparin). Please note that only the generic name of each medication is listed below.

Using this medicine with any of the following medicines is not recommended. Your doctor may decide not to treat you with this medication or change some of the other medicines you take.

- Defibrotide

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What are people's reviews of Lovenox (enoxaparin)?

We asked 19 people what they think about Lovenox (enoxaparin):

