HEPARINISED SALINE INJECTION

Heparin sodium

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about heparinised saline injection. It does not contain all the information that is known about heparinised saline injection.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor will have weighed the risks of heparinised saline injection being used against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about this product ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet.
You may need to read it again.

What Heparinised Saline Injection is for

Heparin sodium is a natural substance that stops the blood from clotting.

Heparinised saline injection is used to help prevent blood blocking the tubes that are inserted into your veins. These tubes are used by doctors and nurses to inject drugs or solutions that are needed to treat your medical condition. They can also be used to take blood samples.

Your doctor or nurse will have explained why they are using heparinised saline injection. Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

Heparinised saline injection is not addictive.

Before you are given Heparinised Saline Injection

You may already have been given heparinised saline injection. Your doctor will have considered the situation carefully and decided to use it. However, if any of the following applies to you, tell your doctor immediately.

When you must not be given it

You must not be given heparinised saline injection if:

1. you have an allergy to
   * any medicine containing heparin
   * any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

   Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

2. you have any of these medical conditions
   * a bleeding disorder (haemophilia)
   * a bruising disorder
   * uncontrollable active bleeding
   * you have a low blood platelet count

Heparinised saline injection will only be used if the solution is clear, the package is undamaged and the use by (expiry) date marked on the pack has not passed.

You should not be given heparinised saline injection if you have any of the following medical conditions:

* problems with your liver or kidneys
* high blood pressure
* stomach ulcers
* heavy or unusual periods
* heart problems
* recent major surgery, especially involving the brain, eye or spinal cord.

It may not be safe for you to be given heparinised saline injection if you have any of these conditions.

Heparinised saline injection should not be given to young babies and if given to infants they should be closely monitored.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

Your doctor can discuss with you the benefits and risks involved.

Heparinised saline injection is made from pigs. Tell your doctor if you cannot use products made from pigs.

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.
**Taking other medicines**

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, especially

* anti-coagulants such as warfarin, abciximab, epifibatide and tirofiban
* aspirin and other anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as indomethacin and phenylbutazone

Many over-the-counter medicines contain aspirin. Check the labels of all medicines you take.

Also tell your doctor if you are taking:

* pain relieving medicines such as ibuprofen
* medicines for heart problems such as dipyridamole and digitals
* tetracyclines (a type of antibiotic)
* antihistamines
* medicines for rheumatoid arthritis such as hydroxychloroquine
* nicotine (cigarettes or nicotine replacement products)
* any other medicines that you buy at the chemist, supermarket or health food shop.

These medicines may affect the way heparinised saline injection works.

Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any other medicines.

If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell them before you are given any heparinised saline injection.

**Side effects**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well after you have been given heparinised saline injection.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

If you are over 60 years of age and particularly if you are a woman you may have an increased chance of getting side effects, especially abnormal bleeding.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Your doctor and nurse will watch your progress closely while you are on heparinised saline injection.

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
* orange-coloured urine or dark coloured faeces
* signs of an 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

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

However, tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

* chills or fever
* runny or blocked nose with sneezing
* extra tears from the eyes
* headache
* nausea or vomiting
* itching and burning of the feet
* change in skin colour or pain at the site of injection

Some people may get other side effects while being given heparinised saline injection.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

**Storage**

Heparinised saline injection should be stored in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25 degrees C.

**Disposal**

Any heparinised saline injection solution remaining after use should be discarded by your doctor or nurse.
Product description

Heparinised saline injection is to be used in one patient only and any remaining solution in the ampoule is to be discarded.

Each heparinised saline injection contains heparin sodium as the active ingredient, measured in International Units (IU).

Heparinised saline injection is available in 50 IU/5 mL Polyamp DuoFit injection ampoules. Each 5 mL ampoule also contains sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide for pH adjustment and water for injections.

Manufacturer

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This leaflet was prepared in November 2004.

Heparinised saline injection

50 IU/5 mL Polyamp DuoFit injection ampoules AUST R 12107