

# **Kofinas Perinatal**

Providing Care to the Unborn ®

## **Patient Drug Information for Heparin**

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### **Heparin, Injection**

This medicine is used to thin the blood. It prevents new blood clots from forming in the veins and reaching the lungs, prevents blood-clotting complications of surgery, and reduces the risk of heart attack and stroke. It may also be prescribed for other conditions.

#### **PROPER USE**

Because this medicine is not effective when taken orally, it is usually injected by your doctor or a nurse in the hospital. If you are giving yourself injections at home, be sure you understand exactly how the injections are given. Use this medicine exactly as ordered. Be sure you are injecting the right amount at the right time. If you miss a dose, do not double the next dose because of the risk of bleeding. To avoid mistakes, keep a record of where and when each injection was given.

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

Your doctor may want to see you to check your blood clotting time when the dosage of heparin is in the therapeutic levels (high dosage). Most of the time however, in obstetrics we use low dose heparin and we do not need to check your clotting time frequently.

Do not take regular dosage of aspirin while you are using this medicine. Your doctor may prescribe low dose (baby ) aspirin along with the prophylactic heparin. This is normal and you may do it if your doctor wants you to. Also, other medicines may interfere with this medicine. Ask your doctor which medicines you can take, including nonprescription products. Tell any other doctors you see (and your dentist) that you are using this medicine.

#### **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Serious (report these to your doctor right away): Bleeding, coughing up blood, stomach pain,

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bloody or tarry stools, vomiting blood or a dark substance resembling coffee grounds, blood in your urine.

Other: Bleeding gums, nosebleed, heavy menstrual bleeding, heavy bleeding from a cut.

**REPORT SIDE EFFECTS THAT CONTINUE OR GET WORSE.**

**KEEP ALL MEDICINES OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.**

**NOTE:** This advisory contains selected information that **MAY NOT** include **ALL** actions or side effects of this medicine. For details, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

## **POSSIBLE DRUG INTERACTIONS**

Aspirin, phenylbutazone (which is no longer available), ibuprofen (Motrin, Rufen, Advil, Nuprin, Mediprin), indomethacin (Indocin), hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil), and high doses of penicillin, which all interfere with platelet aggregation, may cause bleeding when used with this medicine. Check with your doctor. (Low dose aspirin -81 mg- is safe when used according to instructions for patients at risk for miscarriage).

This medicine may affect the actions of **ACTH**, insulin, and steroids. Check with your doctor.

Diazepam (Valium) blood levels may be increased by this medicine, increasing the risk of side effects. Check with your doctor because the dosage may need to be adjusted.

**Digitalis**, tetracyclines, nicotine, and antihistamines may partially counteract the action of this medicine, making it less effective. Check with your doctor.

If you are seeing several doctors, be sure they all know what medicines you are taking. This includes over-the-counter (nonprescription) products.

The above information is intended as a guide only and may not include all drug interactions that are possible. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more information on other possible drug interactions.

**I have read the above information and I fully understand the context.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness: \_\_\_\_\_