



Patient & Family Guide
2017

Dalteparin (Fragmin®) to Prevent Clotting During Hemodialysis



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What is dalteparin?

- Dalteparin is a medication that is part of a group of drugs called blood thinners. Fragmin® is the brand name of dalteparin.
- Dalteparin is commonly used to prevent clotting in the dialysis system.

Why does someone on hemodialysis need this medication?

- When your blood is moving through your body and senses something it doesn't recognize, it releases chemical signals to tell your body to fix the problem. For example, when you have a cut, your blood tells your body to stop the bleeding (by clotting). This can also happen when your blood passes by something that is not part of your body, like a tube.
- During hemodialysis your blood will pass through the dialysis blood lines and a dialyzer, which can cause clots to form. Dalteparin stops clots from forming.

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

How do I take dalteparin?

- A nurse will give you dalteparin at hemodialysis through a line in your dialysis machine. One dose is given at the start of hemodialysis to prevent clot formation.
- The dose of dalteparin varies from person to person depending on the amount of clotting in the dialysis blood lines and dialyzer.

Are there any side effects?

- If you have an arteriovenous (AV) fistula, it may take longer to stop the bleeding from needle sites after hemodialysis and after the needles are taken out.
- Since dalteparin is a blood thinner, side effects may include:
 - › Unusual bleeding, such as nose bleeds or bleeding from the gums
 - › Unusual bruising

Tell your nurse if you have:

- › Any unusual bleeding (e.g. nosebleeds)
- › Fallen recently
- › Unexplained bruising
- › Bleeding longer than expected after dialysis
- › Hypersensitivity to dalteparin

Notes:

Looking for more health information?

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For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.