



Patient & Family Guide
2020

Dalteparin (Fragmin[®]) to Prevent Clotting During Hemodialysis



www.nshealth.ca

Dalteparin (Fragmin®) to Prevent Clotting during Hemodialysis

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 passes through the dialysis blood lines and a dialyzer (artificial kidney), 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 during hemodialysis through a line in your dialysis machine. One dose is given at the start of hemodialysis to prevent clots from forming.
- The dose of dalteparin depends 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 the 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 (such as nosebleeds).
- › have fallen recently.
- › have unexplained bruising.
- › bleed longer than expected after dialysis.
- › are sensitive to dalteparin.
- › are having any surgical or eye procedures.

