1. WHAT HEPARIN FLUSH IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Heparin flush belongs to a group of medicines called anticoagulants. It helps to stop the blood from clotting.

Heparin flush is given into an intravenous (I.V.) line. This means it is injected into the tube connected to a vein to keep it clear by preventing the blood from clotting in it. It is not recommended for treatment of harmful blood clots in your body.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU USE HEPARIN FLUSH

Do not have Heparin flush

• If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to heparin or any of the other ingredients in your medicine. You can find a list of these ingredients in section 6 of this leaflet.

• If you know that you have, or have ever had, a big drop in clotting cells (platelets) in your blood, caused by having any type of heparin (reaction called heparin-induced thrombocytopenia).

Take special care with Heparin flush

Before you have Heparin flush, tell your doctor:

• If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to low molecular weight heparin, such as fraxiparin, enoxaparin or dalteparin.

3. HOW TO USE HEPARIN FLUSH

Heparin flush will be given to you by a doctor or nurse. Heparin flush should not be mixed with any other injection.

The recommended dose of Heparin flush is for routine use, 1-5 ml (10-50 IU heparin) should be administered into the catheter/cannula every 4 to 8 hours as required. Your doctor will prescribe the right dose for you.

If you take more Heparin Flush than you should:

• You may start to haemorrhage (bleed severely). Please read section 4 so you can spot any signs this may be happening to you.

• You may be given another injection of a medicine called protamine sulphate.

If you have any further questions about taking this medicine, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

When used as recommended the low dose of heparin reaching the blood is unlikely to have any effects on the body. However, information is given here on possible side effects.

Important side effects to look out for

You must get urgent medical help if you have any of the following symptoms. You may be having an allergic reaction:

• You have difficulty breathing, wheezing
• Your face or throat swell
• Your skin develops a severe rash
• Hives
• Fever, chills
• Swelling of eyes and lips
• You develop blue tinge to the lips

You should tell your doctor straight away if you spot any of the following signs which mean you may be starting to bleed severely:

• Red or brown urine
• Black tarry stools
• Unusual bruising
• Bleeding from your nose, mouth or any operation wound that will not stop

Other possible side effects

• Starting to bleed more easily. Your blood may also form harmful clots. A big drop in clotting cells (platelets) in your blood may give you these symptoms. Your doctor can explain this more.

5. HOW TO STORE HEPARIN FLUSH

• Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

• Do not use Heparin flush after the expiry date on the label. The expiry date is the last day of that month.

• Store below 25°C.

• Medicines should not be thrown away in waste water or in household waste. Please ask your pharmacist how to throw away any medicine you do not need anymore. If you do this you will help protect the environment.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What Heparin flush contains

• The active ingredient is heparin sodium.

This product contains 10 IU of heparin sodium in each ml of injection.

• The other ingredients are sodium chloride and water for injections.

You can find important information about some of the ingredients near the end of section 2, just before section 3.

What Heparin flush looks like and contents of the pack

Heparin flush is a clear, colourless or pale yellow liquid. This medicine comes in glass ampoules containing 5 ml. There are 10 ampoules in a carton.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer responsible for batch release:


This leaflet was last revised in June 2018.