

Dalteparin (Fragmin®) for Extracorporeal Circuit Anticoagulation

What it does:

Dalteparin is a blood thinner. It can be used to prevent blood clotting in the hemodialysis system.

Why do I need a blood thinner while on hemodialysis:

When your blood senses something it does not recognize (like a tube), it releases chemical signals that increases clot formation (clotting). This happens during hemodialysis when your blood comes into contact with blood lines and the dialyzer (artificial kidney), which can cause clots. Dalteparin works as a blood thinner during your treatment to prevent clotting in the hemodialysis system.

How to take it:

Your hemodialysis nurse will give you one dose of dalteparin through your hemodialysis line at the beginning of your treatment. The dalteparin dose will be adjusted based on the amount of clotting in the dialysis blood lines and the dialyzer.

What side effects could I expect?

- If you have an arteriovenous fistula (AVF) or arteriovenous graft (AVG), it may take longer to stop bleeding from the needle site when the needles are taken out after your treatment. Your nurses will monitor this with you.

Please tell your healthcare team (nurse, pharmacist, nephrologist) if you have:

- Unusual bleeding (eg. nose bleed, gums bleeds)
- A recent fall
- Unexplained bruising
- A sensitivity to dalteparin, any low molecular weight heparin or unfractionated heparin
- Had a surgery or medical procedure done in the last 24 hours, or have one scheduled to be done in the next 12 hours

Please feel free to ask questions to your healthcare team.