

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

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MEDICATION Heparin Sodium REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY CLASS Anticoagulants

**PURPOSE OF MEDICATION**

Expected Pharmacological Action

Increases the inhibitory effect of antithrombin on factor Xa and thrombin

Therapeutic Use

Prevents extension or formation of thrombus

Complications

Alopecia, rash, hyperkalemia, bleeding, pain at injection site, osteoporosis, fever

Medication Administration

SubQ: 5000 units IV, followed by initial SubQ dose of 10,000 - 20,000 units, then 8000 - 10,000 units q8h or 15,000 - 20,000 q12h

Contraindications/Precautions

**Contraindications:** hypersensitivity, uncontrolled bleeding, history of heparin induced thrombocytopenia, thrombocytopenia

**Precautions:** severe renal impairment, severe hepatic impairment ulcer disease, spinal cord or brain injury, diabetes mellitus, chronic renal failure, metabolic acidosis, increased serum potassium

Nursing Interventions

- Assess for signs of bleeding and hemorrhage
- Assess patient for additional or increased thrombosis
- Monitor for hypersensitivity
- Observe injection site for signs of hematomas, ecchymosis, inflammation

Interactions

Drugs that affect platelet function, aspirin, NSAIDs, penicillins, dextran, thrombolytics, warfarin, digoxin, nicotine, antihistamines

Client Education

Purpose of heparin

Report any symptoms of unusual bleeding or bruising to provider immediately

Instruct not to take aspirin or NSAIDs

Avoid IM Injections

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Prevention of DVT and PE, patency of IV catheter, prolonged aPTT of 1.5-2.5 times the control without signs of hemorrhage