## Directions for use

# Heparinised Saline Injection 

## Composition

Each ml contains Heparin Sodium B.P. 10 i.u. in 0.9\% Sodium Chloride.

## Characteristics

This is an isotonic, sterile, preservative-free solution.

## Indications

Heparinised Saline Injection is used for flushing of in-dwelling cannulae and maintaining the patency of intravenous injection devices.

## Contraindications

Heparin is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to the drug. It is contraindicated in patients with haemorrhagic diseases; thrombocytopenia and patients who are haemorrhaging or are at risk of haemorrhage including those with haemophilia, subacute bacterial endocarditis, gastric or duodenal ulcer or severe hypertension. It is also contraindicated in patients who have recently undergone surgery at sites where haemorrhage would be an especial risk.

## Precautions

Heparin should be withdrawn from patients who develop thrombosis associated with thrombocytopenia. Patients with severely impaired liver or kidney function are at risk of haemorrhage from heparin. It is recommended that a test dose be given as a check for heparin sensitivity.
Heparin should be used with care in conjunction with oral anticoagulants or agents which affect platelet function, with dextran injections and thrombolytic enzymes such as streptokinase.

Patients 60 years of age or older, especially females, may be more susceptible to hemorrhaging during heparin therapy. Also, elderly patients are more likely to have age - related renal function impairment, which may increase the risk of bleeding in patients receiving anticoagulants.

## Adverse effects

Heparin can give rise to haemorrhage as a consequence of its action. It can also cause thrombocytopenia; consequent platelet aggregation and thrombosis may therefore exacerbate the condition being treated. Allergic reactions may occur, as may local irritant effects, necrosis, alopecia and spontaneous fractures.

## Dosage and administration

To be determined by the attending physician. For flushing of in-dwelling cannulae, the usual recommended dose is 10 i.u. to 50 i.u. every 4 hours.

## Pregnancy and the neonate

Heparin does not cross the placenta, but there have been reports of an increase in still-births and premature infants following its use during pregnancy. Osteoporosis and compression fractures have also been reported in pregnant women given heparin.

Its use during pregnancy should weigh benefits versus side effects.

However, for flushing of cannulae, the dosage used is very low and side effects are minimal.
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## Symptoms and treatment for overdosage

Symptoms include haemorrhage, slight epistaxis, occassional red cells in the urine and bruising. Slight haemorrhage due to overdosage can usually be treated by withdrawing heparin. Severe bleeding may be reduced by the slow intravenous administration of protamine sulphate (dose to be titrated to the individual patient's requirements).

## Shelf life

This product must not be used beyond the expiry date stated on the label.

## Storage

The product should not be stored above the temperature stated on the label. Protect from light.

## Presentation

In plastic ampoules "Mini-Plasco ${ }^{\circledR}$ " and "MiniPlasco ${ }^{\circledR}$ Connect" of 5 ml or 10 ml in box of 20's.

## Mini-Plasco ${ }^{\circledR}$ Handling

Tear off ampoule
along welding seam

Mini-Plasco ${ }^{\circledR}$ Connect Handling


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