Dalteparin

Ifagmin® is another name for this medication.

**How Is This Medication Useful?**
- Dalteparin is a low molecular weight heparin blood thinner. It is used to prevent blood clots in animals that have had them or are prone to have them. It may also be given before surgery to prevent blood clot formation where excessive clotting might kill the patient.

**Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?**
- Because dalteparin thins the blood, it increases the risk of bleeding. Do not allow your pet to be in situations where it might be injured or cut as it could bleed to death.
- Dalteparin should not be injected into the muscle or into the vein but only under the skin with the very small needle provided by your pharmacist or veterinarian. Most pet owners administer dalteparin with insulin syringes.
- Dalteparin should not be used in animals who have or have had bleeding problems.
- Because dalteparin is collected from pigs, it should not be used in animals that are allergic to pork products. If your animal appears to rub its face on the floor, looks itchy, has swelling of the face or throat, or has trouble breathing, you should take it to the closest veterinarian immediately.
- Dalteparin should be used carefully in animals that have liver or kidney disease.
- Many pain medications (aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, carprofen, etodolac, deracoxib, etc) also prevent the blood from clotting. Do not use any other medications, even those purchased without a prescription, in your pet without first consulting your veterinarian.
- Dalteparin is not likely to harm unborn babies but should be used in pregnant animals only if the mother's life is in danger.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

**What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?**
- Some animals will experience redness and itching at the injection site.
- Some animals will develop a fever from dalteparin. If your cat or dog has a temperature of 103° - 104°F you should call your veterinarian for advice.

**How Should It Be Given?**
- Dalteparin should be injected just under the skin once daily with a very small needle, usually an insulin syringe. Since it is a very potent drug and is given in tiny amounts, you should make sure your pharmacist or veterinarian shows you exactly how much to inject every day.
- Do not shake dalteparin as it may break up the very fragile drug molecule and destroy the effectiveness of the drug.
- It should only be injected just under the skin, not into a vein or into the muscle.
- You should change the injection site daily and not give it too many times in the same spot.
- Don't inject any medication that has changed colors or has specks in it.
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats usually receive dalteparin as an injection under the skin once daily.

**What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?**
- Dalteparin should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- It should not be shaken.
- Open vials should be discarded after 30 days.
- Dalteparin is a very expensive therapy.