

TREATING BLOOD CLOTS IN PREGNANCY

HOW ARE BLOOD CLOTS TREATED IN PREGNANCY?

If you are diagnosed with a blood clot during pregnancy you will be given a medication called 'low molecular weight heparin' (LMWH), or 'unfractionated heparin' (UFH). This will be safe for you and your baby, but will stop more clots from forming and allow time for your body to dissolve the existing clot.

After your baby is born this may be changed to warfarin. LMWH, UFH and warfarin are safe in breast feeding.

You may have read about another type of anticoagulant – a 'direct oral anticoagulant' (DOAC). This type of anticoagulant is not suitable for mums-to-be or breastfeeding mothers because they are very small molecules that likely cross the placenta.

Neither LMWHs or UFH can cross the placenta and therefore, are safe for the fetus (baby).

LENGTH OF TREATMENT

If during pregnancy a blood clot is diagnosed, treatment is usually continued for the remainder of the pregnancy and for at least six weeks after the birth or until at least three months of treatment has been given.

