

■ **Dalteparin sodium dosages should be based on total or adjusted bodyweight in obese patients**, rather than lean bodyweight, say researchers from New Zealand. In this study, 10 such patients and 10 matched patients with normal bodyweight received SC dalteparin sodium [*Fragmin*] 200–240 IU/day.\* Obese patients, compared with those with normal bodyweight, had a higher volume of distribution (V; 12.39 vs 8.36L) and drug clearance (CL; 1.3 vs 1.11 L/h); however, the between-group differences were not significant. Regression analyses of pharmacokinetic data revealed that both V and CL were significantly correlated with total bodyweight and adjusted bodyweight, but not with lean bodyweight.

\* Obese patients were defined as those who had a body mass index (BMI) of  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> and patients with normal bodyweight were those who had a BMI of 20–29.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

Yee JYV, et al. The effect of body weight on dalteparin pharmacokinetics: a preliminary study. *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* 56: 293-297, Jul 2000

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