

■ **Dalteparin sodium provided successful anticoagulation in a patient with mechanical heart valves** following unsuccessful warfarin therapy, report researchers from Canada. They present the case of a 58-year-old woman who was discharged on warfarin following mechanical heart valve replacement. Over the next 3 and a half years she had serious fluctuations in her international normalised ratio (INR) and on one occasion experienced a stroke secondary to a subtherapeutic INR. Warfarin therapy was eventually discontinued and the patient began to self-administer SC dalteparin sodium 16 000 IU/day which was reduced to 12 000 IU/day over the following months in order to maintain peak concentrations of 0.5–1.0 anti-Xa U/ml. The researchers say this report provides *'promising evidence for the potential role of dalteparin'* in such patients.

Maharaj S, et al. Successful anticoagulation with dalteparin in a patient with mechanical heart valves. *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* 33: 1188-1191, Nov 1999

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