Heparin sodium salt
from porcine intestinal mucosa

Product Number  H4784
Storage Temperature  2-8 °C

Product Description
CAS Number:  9041-08-1

Heparin is a polymer classified as a mucopolysaccharide or a glycosaminoglycan. It is biosynthesized and stored in mast cells of various mammalian tissues, particularly liver, lung and mucosa. Commercial heparin is chiefly isolated from beef lung or pork intestinal mucosa.1

This product has been traditionally used as an anticoagulant. Heparin binds to antithrombin III, a naturally occurring plasma protease inhibitor, accelerating significantly the rate at which antithrombin III (AT-III) inhibits coagulation proteases (Factor Xa and thrombin).2,3,4

In addition, this product has been shown to stabilize tryptase as an enzymatically active tetramer.5

It is unlikely that heparin is cell membrane permeable, including that of the brain.6 Heparin crosses cell membranes poorly, because of its polarity and large molecular size. It is not absorbed from the gastrointestinal and sublingual sites. Passage along the placenta and into the maternal milk is also hindered.

Precautions and Disclaimer
For Laboratory Use Only. Not for drug, household or other uses.

Preparation Instructions
This product is soluble in water (50 mg/ml).

Storage/Stability
Heparin is a polysaccharide, which has excellent aqueous solution stability (up to 2 years at 2-8 °C) provided the solutions have been filtered through a 0.2 µm membrane. Alternatively, 0.06-1% benzyl alcohol may be added to solutions to prevent bacterial growth. Any small traces of contaminating organisms in the solution will break down the heparin in order to use its sugars for nutrients, and the stability of non-sterile solutions is very poor. Heparin solutions should not be autoclaved, because additional cross-linking of the sugars may occur at high temperatures. There is no need to freeze solutions of heparin; in fact, solutions of any polysaccharide of high molecular weight should not be frozen.

References
1. The Merck Index, 12th Ed., Entry# 4685.