

Drug Information Table

HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins) – atorvastatin (Lipitor)

Therapeutic Use	Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces LDL and triglycerides • Increases HDL cholesterol • Recommended to reduce mortality in patients who have type 2 diabetes mellitus • Reduces the risk and can prevent cardiovascular disease, such as heart attacks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available orally only • For greatest effectiveness, take in the evening with or without food (take one statin, lovastatin [Mevacor], with food for better absorption) 	
Side/Adverse Effects	Interventions	Patient Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myopathy (pain in muscles and joints, which can progress to rhabdomyolysis [breakdown of muscle protein causing kidney damage]) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for and report myopathy • Measure CPK if muscle pain occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report muscle or joint pain to provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liver toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor liver function tests and report impaired liver function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report abdominal pain, jaundice, and fatigue to provider • Comply with periodic liver function testing
Contraindications	Precautions	Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy category X, lactation • Current liver disease, jaundice, elevated transaminase, or greatly elevated AST or ALT • Renal failure • Rhabdomyolysis or myopathy • Multiple sclerosis • Children younger than 10 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family history of high cholesterol (homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia) • History of liver disorders • Diabetes mellitus • Alcohol use disorder • Renal disorders • Seizure disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent use of a fibrate or other drug to lower cholesterol can increase risk for myopathy or liver toxicity • Drugs that inhibit CYP3A4, such as erythromycin, azole antifungal drugs, HIV protease inhibitors increase blood levels of some statins (especially lovastatin and simvastatin) • Drinking large amounts of grapefruit juice also inhibits CYP3A4 and can increase risk for adverse effects • Warfarin with a statin increases risk for bleeding and increased PT levels