

Apo-Lovastatin 20mg tab

Lovastatin

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about APO-LOVASTATIN. It does not contain all the information that is known about APO-LOVASTATIN.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor will have weighed the risks of you taking APO-LOVASTATIN against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What is the medication for

APO-LOVASTATIN is one of a class of medicines known as Lipid Metabolism Regulators.

When it is necessary to lower cholesterol, physicians usually try to control the condition, known as hypercholesterolemia, with a carefully supervised diet. Also your physician may recommend other measures such as exercise and weight control.

Medicines like this one are prescribed along with, and not as a substitute for, a special diet and other measures.

Lovastatin is used to lower the levels of cholesterol (particularly Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol) and other fats in the blood. This may help prevent heart disease if caused by cholesterol clogging the blood vessels or slow the progression of atherosclerosis (hardening) of the arteries that nourish your heart,

so-called coronary heart disease (CHD).

How it works

APO-LOVASTATIN inhibits an enzyme that is necessary for the body to make cholesterol. In this way, less cholesterol is produced in the liver.

Before you use

When you must not take it

Tell your physician if

- You have previously taken lovastatin or any other medication in the same class - example, simvastatin (Zocor), pravastatin (Pravachol) or fluvastatin (Lescol) and were allergic, or had reacted badly to it.
- You are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. This medicine should not be used during pregnancy.
- You are breast-feeding, or intend to breast-feed.
- You have liver disease.

Before you start to take it

None

Taking other medicines

Your physician also needs to know if you are taking any other medication, whether on prescription or otherwise. It is particularly important to inform your physician if you are taking:

- cyclosporine (Sandimmune), gemfibrozil (Lopid), lipid-lowering doses of niacin (nicotinic acid), nefazodone (Serzone), corticosteroids, an anticoagulant (e.g., warfarin), digoxin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, azithromycin

or an azole antifungal agent (e.g. itraconazole).

How to take

How much to take

Take this medicine exactly as your physician ordered.

When to take it

It is usually recommended as a single dose with the evening meal or in two divided doses with the morning and evening meals.

How long to take it

It should be taken long term under supervision of your doctor.

If you forget to take it

Do not worry. Take your recommended dose as soon as you remember, unless it is nearly time for the next dose. Then take your next dose at the right time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

If you take too much (overdose)

If you have accidentally taken more than your prescribed dose, contact your nearest casualty department or tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately. Remember to take the pack and any remaining tablets with you.

While you are using it

Things you must do

Carefully follow any measures that your physician has recommended for diet, exercise or weight control.

Keep your appointments regularly with your physician so that your blood can be tested and your progress checked at proper

intervals. Your physician may also arrange for periodic eye examination by an ophthalmologist.

Things you must not do

Do not consume grapefruit juice while taking APO-LOVASTATIN.

Avoid drinking large quantities of alcohol.

Do not start taking any other medicines unless you have discussed the matter with your physician.

Let your physician know if you suffer a severe injury, or severe infection.

If you have to undergo any dental or other surgery, tell your physician about the planned surgery; and also inform the dentist or the physician in charge that you are taking this or any other medicine.

Things to be careful of

None

Side effects

Side effects you could have while taking APO-LOVASTATIN include

- Aching muscles, muscle cramps, tiredness or weakness
- Fever
- Blurred vision

Some other side effects that may occur, generally do not require medical attention, and may come and go during treatment. But if any of the following persist or become troublesome, do check with your physician or pharmacist:

- Constipation, diarrhea, gas, stomach upset, nausea
- Pain in the abdomen

- Headache, dizziness
- Skin rash

Some people may have other reactions. If you notice any unusual effect, check with your physician or pharmacist.

After using this medication

Storage

Remember to keep APO-LOVASTATIN and all medications safely away from children.

Do not use this medicine after the month and year written after EXP on the container.

Store APO-LOVASTATIN at room temperature (below 25°C).

Disposal

Ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets you have left over if your doctor tells you to stop taking them, or you find that the expiry date has passed.

Product Description

What it looks like?

APO-LOVASTATIN 20mg tablets are light blue, octagonal, flat-faced, bevelled-edge tablets, engraved "APO" on one side, scored and engraved "LOVA" over "20" on the other side. Available in blister pack of 30 tablets.

Ingredients

Each APO-LOVASTATIN contains lovastatin as the active ingredient.

Other important non-medicinal ingredients are lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, croscarmellose sodium, Blue #2 and Brilliant Blue.

Malaysian Registration Number

MAL 19990021AR

Manufacturer

Apotex Inc.
150 Signet Drive
Weston Toronto Ontario
M9L 1T9 Canada

Marketing Authorization Holder

Pharmaforte (M) Sdn Bhd
2, Jalan PJU 3/49
Sunway Damansara
47810 Petaling Jaya

Date of revision

1st June 2011