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2. Gemfibrozil

# Gemfibrozil

**Generic name:** gemfibrozil [ *jem-FYE-broe-zil* ]**Brand name:** [Lopid](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet (600 mg)**Drug class:** [Fibric acid derivatives](#)Medically reviewed by [Kaci Durbin, MD](#). Last updated on Feb 21, 2025.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#)

## What is gemfibrozil?

[Gemfibrozil](#) helps reduce cholesterol and triglycerides (fatty acids) in the blood. High levels of these types of fat in the blood are associated with an increased risk of [atherosclerosis](#) (clogged arteries).

Gemfibrozil is used together with diet to treat very [high cholesterol](#) and triglyceride levels in people with [pancreatitis](#).

Gemfibrozil is also used to lower the risk of stroke, [heart attack](#), or other heart complications in certain people with high cholesterol and triglycerides who have not been helped by other treatment methods.

## Warnings

You should not take gemfibrozil if you have severe liver or kidney disease, [gallbladder disease](#), or if you are also taking [repaglinide](#), dasabuvir, or [simvastatin](#).

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use gemfibrozil if you are allergic to it, if you have:

- severe liver disease;
- severe kidney disease;
- gallbladder disease; or
- if you are also taking repaglinide, dasabuvir, or simvastatin.

To make sure gemfibrozil is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had::

- [gallstones](#); or
- if you also take [warfarin](#) ([Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#)).

It is not known whether gemfibrozil will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

**i** [Gemfibrozil pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take gemfibrozil?

Take gemfibrozil exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets.

Gemfibrozil is usually taken 30 minutes before breakfast and dinner. Follow your doctor's dosing instructions very carefully.

Gemfibrozil is only part of a complete treatment program that may also include diet, exercise, and weight control. Follow your diet, medication, and exercise routines very closely.

You may need frequent medical tests. Even if you have no symptoms, tests can help your doctor determine if this medicine is effective.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

## Dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose of Gemfibrozil for Hyperlipidemia:

600 mg orally twice a day, 30 minutes before the morning and evening meals

Uses: As an adjunct to diet in the following situations: to treat hypertriglyceridemia in Types IV and V hyperlipidemia in patients who present at risk for pancreatitis and who do not respond adequately to diet; to reduce the risk for coronary heart disease (CHD) only in Type IIb patients without a history of or symptoms of existing CHD who have not responded adequately to other pharmacologic agents and nonpharmacologic interventions and who have low high density lipoprotein (HDL), elevated low density lipoprotein (LDL), and elevated triglycerides

### Usual Adult Dose of Gemfibrozil for Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IIb (Elevated LDL + VLDL):

600 mg orally twice a day, 30 minutes before the morning and evening meals

Uses: As an adjunct to diet in the following situations: to treat hypertriglyceridemia in Types IV and V hyperlipidemia in patients who present at risk for pancreatitis and who do not respond adequately to diet; to reduce the risk for coronary heart disease (CHD) only in Type IIb patients without a history of or symptoms of existing CHD who have not responded adequately to other pharmacologic agents and nonpharmacologic interventions and who have low high density lipoprotein (HDL), elevated low density lipoprotein (LDL), and elevated triglycerides

### Usual Adult Dose of Gemfibrozil for Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IV (Elevated VLDL):

600 mg orally twice a day, 30 minutes before the morning and evening meals

Uses: As an adjunct to diet in the following situations: to treat hypertriglyceridemia in Types IV and V hyperlipidemia in patients who present at risk for pancreatitis and who do not respond adequately to diet; to reduce the risk for coronary

heart disease (CHD) only in Type IIb patients without a history of or symptoms of existing CHD who have not responded adequately to other pharmacologic agents and nonpharmacologic interventions and who have low high density lipoprotein (HDL), elevated low density lipoprotein (LDL), and elevated triglycerides

**Usual Adult Dose for Hyperlipoproteinemia Type V (Elevated Chylomicrons + VLDL):**

600 mg orally twice a day, 30 minutes before the morning and evening meals

Uses: As an adjunct to diet in the following situations: to treat hypertriglyceridemia in Types IV and V hyperlipidemia in patients who present at risk for pancreatitis and who do not respond adequately to diet; to reduce the risk for coronary heart disease (CHD) only in Type IIb patients without a history of or symptoms of existing CHD who have not responded adequately to other pharmacologic agents and nonpharmacologic interventions and who have low high density lipoprotein (HDL), elevated low density lipoprotein (LDL), and elevated triglycerides

**Usual Adult Dose for Hypertriglyceridemia:**

600 mg orally twice a day, 30 minutes before the morning and evening meals

Uses: As an adjunct to diet in the following situations: to treat hypertriglyceridemia in Types IV and V hyperlipidemia in patients who present at risk for pancreatitis and who do not respond adequately to diet; to reduce the risk for coronary heart disease (CHD) only in Type IIb patients without a history of or symptoms of existing CHD who have not responded adequately to other pharmacologic agents and nonpharmacologic interventions and who have low high density lipoprotein (HDL), elevated low density lipoprotein (LDL), and elevated triglycerides

**Usual Adult Dose for Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease:**

600 mg orally twice a day, 30 minutes before the morning and evening meals

Uses: As an adjunct to diet in the following situations: to treat hypertriglyceridemia in Types IV and V hyperlipidemia in patients who present at risk for pancreatitis and who do not respond adequately to diet; to reduce the risk for coronary heart disease (CHD) only in Type IIb patients without a history of or symptoms of existing CHD who have not responded adequately to other pharmacologic agents and nonpharmacologic interventions and who have low high density lipoprotein (HDL), elevated low density lipoprotein (LDL), and elevated triglycerides

 [Detailed Gemfibrozil dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What should I avoid while taking gemfibrozil?

Avoid eating foods high in fat or cholesterol, or gemfibrozil will not be as effective.

Avoid drinking alcohol. It may interfere with your treatment.

## Gemfibrozil side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to gemfibrozil**: [hives](#); difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

In rare cases, gemfibrozil can cause a condition that results in the breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue, leading to [kidney failure](#). Call your doctor right away if you have unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness especially if you also have fever, unusual tiredness, and dark colored urine.

Also call your doctor at once if you have:

- sharp pain in your upper stomach (especially after eating);
- [jaundice](#) (yellowing of your skin or eyes);
- pain or burning when you urinate;
- blurred vision, eye pain, or seeing halos around lights; or
- **low blood cell counts** - pale skin, easy bruising, unusual bleeding, unusual tiredness, feeling light-headed or short of breath, cold hands and feet.

Common gemfibrozil side effects may include:

- stomach pain, [indigestion](#), [diarrhea](#);
- numbness or tingly feeling;
- [dizziness](#), drowsiness;
- blurred vision;
- muscle or joint pain; or
- loss of interest in sex, [impotence](#).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Gemfibrozil side effects](#) (more detail)

## Related/similar drugs

### Lipitor

Lipitor is used to treat high cholesterol.  
Learn about side effects, interactions  
and indications.

### Reviews & ratings

4.3 / 10

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## Crestor

Crestor (rosuvastatin) is used to treat high cholesterol and high triglycerides in the blood ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.6 / 10

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## Repatha

Repatha (evolocumab) is a PCSK9 inhibitor used to lower high cholesterol alongside dietary changes ...

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## Fenofibrate

Fenofibrate is used to treat high cholesterol and high triglyceride levels. Learn about side ...

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## Simvastatin

Simvastatin (Zocor) is a cholesterol-lowering medication that blocks the production of cholesterol ...

### Reviews & ratings

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## Ezetimibe

Ezetimibe is used alone or with other medication to treat high cholesterol. Learn about side ...

### Reviews & ratings

3.9 / 10

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## Rosuvastatin

Rosuvastatin is a prescription medication used to treat high cholesterol and prevent heart disease ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.0 / 10

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## Pravastatin

Pravastatin (Pravachol) is a statin medicine used to lower cholesterol and triglycerides in the ...

### Reviews & ratings

4.5 / 10

[78 Reviews](#)

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## Zetia

Zetia (ezetimibe) is used to treat high cholesterol. Includes Zetia side effects, interactions and ...

### Reviews & ratings

4.3 / 10

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## Zocor

Zocor (simvastatin) reduces low-

density lipoprotein cholesterol and total cholesterol in the blood ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.0 / 10

[22 Reviews](#)

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## What other drugs will affect gemfibrozil?

Using certain medicines together with gemfibrozil can increase your risk of serious muscle problems. It is very important to tell your doctor about all medicines you use, and those you start or stop using, especially:

- [colchicine](#); or
- a "statin" cholesterol-lowering medicine - [atorvastatin](#), [fluvastatin](#), [lovastatin](#), [pitavastatin](#), [pravastatin](#), [rosuvastatin](#), [simvastatin](#), [Crestor](#), [Lipitor](#), [Zocor](#), [Vytorin](#), and others.

This list is not complete and many other drugs may interact with gemfibrozil. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

 [Gemfibrozil drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does gemfibrozil interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

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- [Drug class: fibric acid derivatives](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Lopid](#)

## Professional resources

- [Gemfibrozil monograph](#)
- [Gemfibrozil \(FDA\)](#)

### Other brands

[Lopid](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [High Cholesterol](#)
- [Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IV, Elevated VLDL](#)
- [Hyperlipoproteinemia](#)
- [Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IIb, Elevated LDL VLDL](#)
- [Hyperlipoproteinemia Type V, Elevated Chylomicrons VLDL](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use gemfibrozil only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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### DRUG STATUS

#### Availability

**Rx** Prescription only

#### [Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available


#### CSA Schedule\*





N/A Not a controlled drug

### Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



## User Reviews & Ratings

6.1 / 10

[27 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Gemfibrozil 600 mg \(I G 225\)](#)



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