

[Home](#)2. [Welchol](#)

Welchol

Generic name: [colesevelam](#) [*KOE-le-SEV-e-lam*]**Drug class:** [Bile acid sequestrants](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Sep 16, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Welchol?

Welchol lowers "bad" cholesterol in the blood, which is also called LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol. Lowering your LDL cholesterol may reduce your risk of hardened arteries, which can lead to heart attacks, stroke, and circulation problems.

Welchol is used to treat [high cholesterol](#) in adults and children at least 10 years old.

Welchol is sometimes used together with "statin" cholesterol medications such as [atorvastatin](#), lovastatin, [simvastatin](#), Crestor, Lipitor, Pravachol, Zocor, and others.

Welchol is also used to improve blood sugar control in adults with type 2 [diabetes mellitus](#). This medication is not for treating [type 1 diabetes](#).

Welchol may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Welchol side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Welchol may cause serious side effects. Stop using Welchol and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe [constipation](#);
- severe stomach pain; or
- **pancreatitis**--severe pain in your upper stomach spreading to your back, nausea and vomiting.

Common side effects of Welchol may include:

- constipation;
- nausea; or

- [upset stomach](#).

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.

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

Related/similar drugs

Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Rybelsus

Rybelsus tablets are used to improve blood sugar control in adults with type 2 diabetes, and may ...

Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[282 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Mounjaro

Mounjaro (tirzepatide) is FDA-approved to manage type 2 diabetes in adults. It lowers blood sugar ...

Reviews & ratings

8.5 / 10

[1,278 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Repatha

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

Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[685 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Lipitor

Lipitor is used to treat high cholesterol.

Learn about side effects, interactions and indications.

Reviews & ratings

4.3 / 10

[102 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Trulicity

Trulicity is an injectable diabetes medicine that is used together with diet and exercise to ...

Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[970 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Crestor

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

Reviews & ratings

5.6 / 10

[138 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Lantus

Lantus is a long acting form of insulin used to treat type 1 or type 2 diabetes. Learn about side ...

Reviews & ratings

6.5 / 10

[41 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Pravastatin

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

Reviews & ratings

4.5 / 10

[78 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Fenofibrate

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

Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[69 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

You should not take Welchol if you have [diabetic ketoacidosis](#), very [high triglycerides](#), a history of [bowel obstruction](#), or a history of [pancreatitis](#) caused by high triglycerides.

Before taking this medicine

You should not take Welchol if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- very high levels of triglycerides (a type of fat) in your blood;
- diabetic ketoacidosis (call your doctor for treatment);
- a history of bowel obstruction; or
- a history of pancreatitis caused by high triglycerides.

Welchol may increase your triglycerides, which can increase your risk of pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas).

Your doctor will perform blood tests to make sure your triglycerides are not too high for you to safely use this medicine.

Welchol is not for use in girls who have not yet started having menstrual periods.

Welchol should not be given to a child younger than 10 years old.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- trouble swallowing;
- blockage in your digestive tract (stomach or intestines);
- slow digestion;
- surgery on your stomach or intestines; or
- a vitamin A, D, E, or K deficiency.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant.

The powder form of [colesevelam](#) may contain phenylalanine. Tell your doctor if you have [phenylketonuria](#) (PKU).

How should I take Welchol?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Take Welchol with a meal and a full glass of water or other liquid.

You may have to take several **tablets** at a time each time you take Welchol. Tell your doctor if you have trouble swallowing the tablet whole.

Welchol **powder** must be mixed with 8 ounces of water, fruit juice, or a diet soft drink. Stir and drink this mixture right away. Add a little more water to the glass, swirl gently and drink right away.

Do not change the dose or timing of any other cholesterol or diabetes medications without your doctor's advice.

You will need frequent blood tests.

Welchol is only part of a complete treatment program that may also include diet, exercise, and weight control. You may need to follow a special diet to prevent constipation while using this medicine. Follow all instructions of your doctor or dietitian.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Welchol dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine (with food and a full glass of water) 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 Welchol?

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

What other drugs will affect Welchol?

Welchol can make it harder for your body to absorb other medicines you take, which could make those medicines less effective. **If you take any of the following medicines**, take them 4 hours before you take this medicine:

- [cyclosporine](#);
- olmesartan;
- phenytoin;
- [levothyroxine](#) or other thyroid medication;
- [birth control pills](#);
- multivitamins;
- warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven); or
- **oral diabetes medication**--[chlorpropamide](#), glimepiride, glipizide, or glyburide, tolazamide, tolbutamide.

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

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

Does Welchol interact with my other drugs?

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

Welchol

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about Welchol (colesevelam)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(42\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)

- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Drug class: bile acid sequestrants](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Welchol \(Colesevelam Oral Suspension\) patient information](#)
- [Welchol \(Colesevelam Tablets\)](#)

Professional resources

- [Welchol prescribing information](#)
- [Colesevelam \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IIa, Elevated LDL](#)
- [High Cholesterol](#)
- [Type 2 Diabetes](#)
- [Hyperlipoproteinemia](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication 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](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 12.01.

DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History



User Reviews & Ratings

8.1 / 10

[42 Reviews](#)

Images

[Welchol 625 mg \(SANKYO C01\)](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT