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2. Colesevelam

Colesevelam

Generic name: colesevelam [*KOE-le-SEV-e-lam*]**Brand names:** [Welchol](#), Colesevelam Hydrochloride**Dosage forms:** oral powder for reconstitution (3.75 g), oral tablet (625 mg)**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 colesevelam?

Colesevelam 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.

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

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

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

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

Colesevelam 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.

Colesevelam may cause serious side effects. Stop using colesevelam 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 colesevelam 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.

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

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Warnings

You should not take colesevelam 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 colesevelam 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.

Colesevelam 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 colesevelam.**

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

Colesevelam 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 colesevelam?

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

Take colesevelam 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 colesevelam. Tell your doctor if you have trouble swallowing the tablet whole.

Colesevelam **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.

Colesevelam 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 colesevelam. Follow all instructions of your doctor or dietitian.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Colesevelam 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 colesevelam?

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

What other drugs will affect colesevelam?

Colesevelam 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 colesevelam:

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

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

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

Does colesevelam interact with my other drugs?

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

+

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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](#)

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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

8.6 / 10

[124 Reviews](#)

Images

[Colesevelam Hydrochloride 625 mg \(Logo 625\)](#)



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