ITV Evening News

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*Here, doctors say thousands of people are at risk*

*from heart attacks or stroke because of confusing advice over statins.*

*More than 200,000 patients have stopped taking*

*the cholesterol-lowering drug after articles were published*

*about possible side-effects.*

*More now from our Science Correspondent, Alokh Jha.*

*Mllllons of Brltons take statlns even! day.*

*part of a strategy to reduce their risk of heart attacks and strokes.*

*Side effects are rare, but a report published two-and-a-half years ago*

*in the British Medical Journal questioned the safety of the drugs.*

*For slx months, then was wldupmd confuslon.*

*And now the author of a new report*

*says that confusion had health consequences.*

*The mm was that those mlsleadlng dalms*

*may have scared people too much,*

*and people who could really benefit from statins and needed them,*

*stopped taking them.*

*The study looked at statin prescriptions*

*for 700,000 people aged 40 and above.*

*Scientists found that around 219,000 people*

*stopped taking their statins early*

*in the six months after the safety concerns arose.*

*They predicted this could lead to more than 2,000 extra cardiovascular*

*events, such as heart attacks and strokes, over the next 10 years.*

*41-year-old Joel Bond’s mother and grandfather*

*both died of heart attacks, and he’s not taking any chances.*

*I think people get concerned when they read these scare stories.*

*I know for me that taking statins*

*has reduced my chances of having a heart attack*

*from hlgh to lower than the natlonal avenge.*

*The debates will no doubt go on among some scientists.*

*For patlents, today the beneﬁts of statlns*

*will be a little clearer.*

*Alok Jha, ITV News.*