## ITV Lunchtime News

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*A series of false alarms over the potential side effects* *of cholesterol-lowering statin drugs may have put people off taking them,* *with potentially life-changing consequences.* *New research suggests almost 220,000 stopped taking statins* *in the six months after the British Medical Journal* *published two reports in 2013, questioning the use of statins.* *This could lead to at least 2,000 people* *suffering from cardiovascular issues, like heart attack or stroke,* *in the next 10 years.* *Joining us now is the author of today’s study, Dr Liam Smeeth.* *What was behind that criticism two years ago? Some understandable* *concerns that more and more people* *are taklng these* *taking these drugs. There was concern that need to be studylng and Iooklng at*  *side-effects in more* *detalL . There are also some*  *some mlsleadlng*  *claims about the level of*  *slde effects,*  *, high claims that were* *made which were not backed up by*  *evldence. It is about peer review.*  *Here is me, a potential patient, do I believe the BMA,* *There is confusion. There is a troubling*  *Some of the claims that*  *were made*  *were opinion pieces with* *were made were opinion pieces with no evidence underlying them. One or two publlshed*  *were extrapolation or*  *mlsjudgment*  *of the evidence and were*  *not backed by*  *evidence. It is very*  *dlfflcult for*  *the public. Half a*  *step back,*  *the signs of what Statins*  *can do In*  *terms of cholesterol, are you agreed about* *that? That is* *you agreed about that? That is crystal clear. It is one of the most effective drugs, reducing*  *cholesterol and stop people having*  *heart attacks and strokes. A lot of*  *people listening to this will be*  *patlents. It is a side-effects issue that the debate rages around. That has been issue. . That is where the misleading claims were made. That Statins cause disability is and* *palns. These claims are not borne* *out by the* *rigourous scientific* *evldence.*  *15 it a case for NICE to be the referee and say she was* *right? They have looked at the issue* *and back the* *the scientists. Thank you.*