



What's my Drug?

Atorvastatin is a statin. Statins lower cholesterol, which may reduce your risk of having things like a heart attack or a stroke. There are lots of other things that can help reduce risks, like giving up smoking, eating healthier and taking more exercise.

How to take it: You can take these tablets at any time of the day and with or without food.

Possible side effects include: Sickness, diarrhoea or constipation, tummy pain, and flatulence (wind). Nose and throat infections can happen. You could get a headache. You can get allergic to it. Muscle pain is a particular problem for some people who take statins. So, if you get unexpected muscle pain, tenderness, weakness or cramps that do not go away or get worse with activity, discuss it with your health professional. Reducing the dose may help quite quickly. Don't ignore muscle pain; get it checked out.

Rare but important side effects: Statins can increase your risk of getting diabetes. They can affect the liver, kidneys, and pancreas. So, if your skin goes yellow (jaundice) or your urine gets dark, or you don't feel well, check it out with your health professional. Statins can affect the lungs and affect memory, but these are quite rare. Let your doctor know if you find it hard to breathe. Nerve damage which could cause pain, numbness, or tingling is a rare side effect. Hair thinning (alopecia) can happen. It may cause myaesthesia gravis, so if you notice double vision, drooping eyelids, swallowing problems, weakness after activity or shortness of breath talk to a doctor.

Warnings and Cautions: This medicine does not mix well with a number of others including some antibiotics and certain blood pressure medicines. Check with your health professional if you take, or are given, any other medicines. Avoid drinking grapefruit juice while on this medicine. If you feel that you must have it, drink only small amounts. Check the Product Information Leaflet for full details of all its other potential side effects. For women: this medicine must not be used during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Women should use contraception during and for 1 month after finishing treatment, if necessary. Women wishing to become pregnant should delay until 3 months after finishing treatment.