

Mevacor (Lovastatin) basics

Lowers cholesterol. Mevacor (Lovastatin) can improve cholesterol, but it's not as strong as other statin medicines. Statin side effects can be difficult to deal with, but the benefits might outweigh the risks.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Lowers bad cholesterol and triglycerides, and raises good cholesterol.
- Most people reach their target cholesterol levels in 4 to 6 weeks.
- Works best if you take it once a day after your evening meal.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice while taking this medicine.
- Tell your doctor if you develop sudden muscle pain, fever, or weakness.
- Tell your doctor if you notice dark urine or yellowing of the eyes or skin.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Muscle pain

There are rare cases of muscle damage leading to kidney failure in people taking Mevacor (Lovastatin). The risk is greater in people with kidney disease or thyroid disease, are older and female and taking certain cholesterol-lowering medication combinations. Tell your doctor if you develop sudden muscle pain, weakness or fever and there is no known cause.

Liver damage

There are reports of liver damage in people who take Mevacor (Lovastatin), especially if they are heavy alcohol drinkers or have a history of liver disease. If you notice dark urine or yellowing of the eyes or skin, tell your doctor. Your doctor may also want to check your liver function periodically.

Harm to fetus

Don't use while pregnant it can harm your unborn baby. If you're considering having a baby, talk to your doctor about alternative medications. If you're considering having a baby, talk to your doctor about alternative medications.