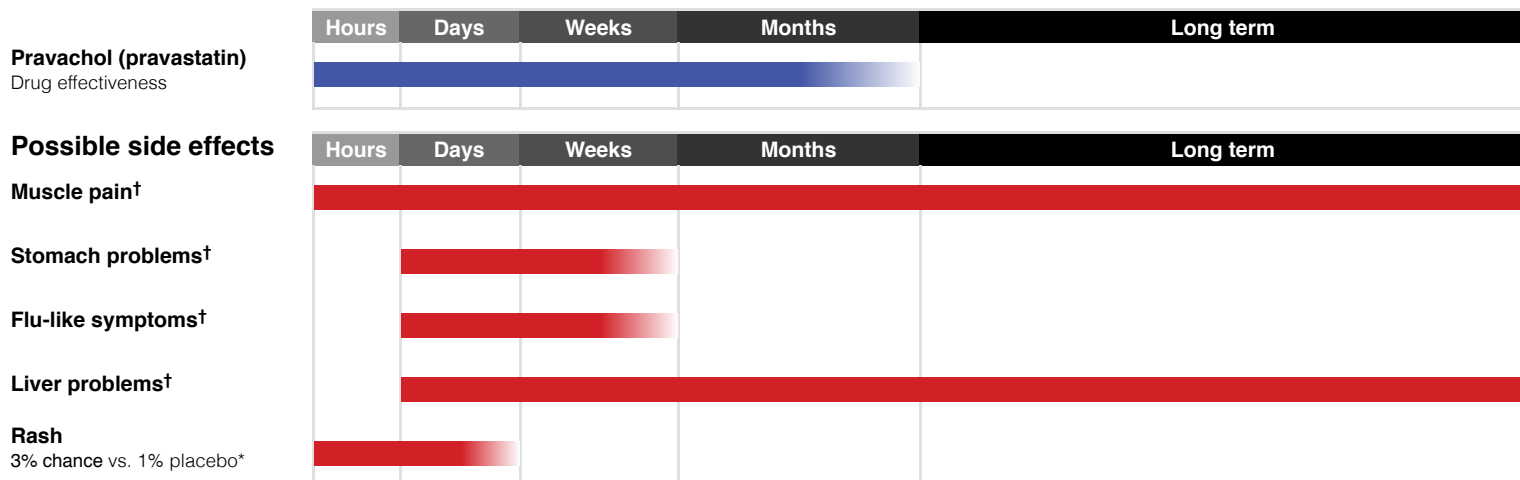


Pravachol (pravastatin) basics

Lowers cholesterol. Pravachol (pravastatin) can improve cholesterol, but it's not as strong as other statin medicines. It does cause fewer side effects and is safer for your kidneys and liver.

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.
- Don't eat grapefruit and drink grapefruit juice while taking this medicine.
- Tell your doctor if you develop sudden muscle pain, fever, or weakness.
- Also let your doctor know if you notice dark urine or yellowing of your eyes or skin.
- You'll need to stop taking Pravachol (pravastatin) if you get pregnant.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Muscle damage

Rarely, people taking medicines like Pravachol (pravastatin) have muscle damage that can sometimes lead to kidney damage. This is more likely if you have kidney disease, an underactive thyroid, if you're older, or a female. Talk to your doctor right away if you have unexplained suddenly severe muscle pain, weakness, or fever.

Liver damage

People who take medicines similar to Pravachol (pravastatin) can have liver damage. While this is rare, you're more likely to have it if you've had liver disease in the past or binge drink more than 5 days a month. If you notice dark urine or yellowing of your eyes or skin while taking Pravachol (pravastatin), talk to your doctor. Your doctor may also want to check your liver function periodically.

Harm to fetus

People who are thinking of getting pregnant can't take Pravachol (pravastatin) because it can harm your fetus. Talk to your doctor if you're taking Pravachol (pravastatin) and want to have a baby because they'll have to change your medicines. If you do find out you're pregnant while taking Pravachol (pravastatin), talk to your doctor right away.