

# Zocor (simvastatin) basics

**Lowers cholesterol.** Zocor (simvastatin) is a good medication to improve your cholesterol.

## 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.
- 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.
- Certain medications can interact with this drug. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the medicines you are taking.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Muscle pain and kidney damage

People on Zocor (simvastatin) have reported muscle pain, which may lead to muscle and kidney damage. This is more likely to happen if you take higher doses of Zocor (simvastatin). If you suddenly feel muscle pain, weakness or fever and you haven't been exercising, stop taking Zocor (simvastatin) and talk to your doctor right away.

### Liver damage

There are reports of liver damage in people who take Zocor (simvastatin), 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 regularly.

### Harm to unborn baby

Don't use Zocor (simvastatin) while you're pregnant as it can harm your unborn baby. If you're pregnant or planning for pregnancy, talk to your doctor about alternative medications.