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ATORVASTATIN

Brand names: Lipitor®

What is this medication used for?

Atorvastatin is used to lower “bad” cholesterol and triglycerides in the blood. It lowers the risk of stroke, heart attack, and other heart complications in people with diabetes, coronary heart disease, or other risk factors.

How should I take this medication?

Atorvastatin is taken by mouth.

Atorvastatin should be taken at bedtime or with the evening meal. If you take it more than once per day, take it with meals.

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

Do not take any new medication (prescription or over-the-counter) without checking with your doctor or pharmacist first.

What are the side effects of this medication?

- Headache
- Mild muscle pain
- Mild joint pain
- Constipation
- Mild nausea
- Stomach pain or indigestion
- Mild skin rash
- Sleep problems (insomnia)

Other side effects not listed may also occur. Check with your physician if you notice any other effects.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Cough,
- Difficulty swallowing
- Unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness
- Fever, unusual tiredness, and dark colored urine
- Pain or burning when you urinate
- Swelling, weight gain, urinating less than usual or not at all
- Nausea, upper stomach pain, itching, loss of appetite, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)

Special Instructions:

You should have been prescribed a special diet to help lower your cholesterol. This diet includes lower fat, sugar, and cholesterol. Follow this diet to ensure the medicine works best for your condition.

Atorvastatin is less effective if you are greatly overweight. It may be very important for you to go on a weight-reducing diet. Your doctor will guide this.

Your blood will need to be tested often to make sure that atorvastatin is not causing any harmful effects. Your liver function may also need to be tested. Visit your doctor regularly and keep your appointments for these tests.

You may need to take atorvastatin on a long-term basis for the treatment of high cholesterol. Continue to take atorvastatin even if your cholesterol levels goes down.

This information is only a summary. Please contact your healthcare professional for additional information about this medication.

HomeCareForYou.com & HospiceForYou.com