

Package Leaflet: Information for the patient

Torvan 10 mg Film-coated tablets  
Torvan 20 mg Film-coated tablets  
Torvan 40 mg Film-coated tablets  
Torvan 80 mg Film-coated tablets  
atorvastatin

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Torvan is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Torvan
3. How to take Torvan
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Torvan
6. Contents of the pack and other information.

1. What Torvan is and what it is used for

Torvan belongs to a group of medicines known as statins, which are lipid (fat) regulating medicines.

Torvan is used to lower lipids known as cholesterol and triglycerides in the blood when a low fat diet and life style changes on their own have failed. If you are at an increased risk of heart disease, Torvan can also be used to reduce such risk even if your cholesterol levels are normal.You should maintain a standard cholesterol lowering diet during treatment.

2. What you need to know before you take Torvan

Do not take Torvan

- if you are allergic to atorvastatin or to any similar medicines used to lower blood lipids or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in Section 6)
- if you have or have ever had a disease which affects the liver
- if you have had any unexplained abnormal blood tests for liver function
- if you are a woman able to have children and not using reliable contraception
- if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant
- if you are breast-feeding.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Torvan

The following are reasons why Torvan may not be suitable for you:

- if you have had a previous stroke with bleeding into the brain, or have small pockets of fluid in the brain from previous strokes
- if you have kidney problems
- if you have an under-active thyroid gland (hypothyroidism)
- if you have had repeated or unexplained muscle aches or pains, a personal history or family history of muscle problems
- if you have had previous muscular problems during treatment with other lipid-lowering medicines (e.g. other ‘-statin’ or ‘-fibrate’ medicines)
- if you regularly drink a large amount of alcohol
- if you have a history of liver disease
- if you are older than 70 years
- if you have severe respiratory failure.

If any of these apply to you, your doctor will need to carry out a blood test before and possibly during your Torvan treatment to predict your risk of muscle related side effects. The risk of muscle related side effects e.g. rhabdomyolysis is known to increase when certain medicines are taken at the same time (see Section 2 “Other medicines and Torvan”).

If you are taking or have taken in the last 7 days a medicine called fusidic acid, (a medicine for bacterial infection) orally or by injection. The combination of fusidic acid and Atorvastatin can lead to serious muscle problems (rhabdomyolysis).

While you are on this medicine your doctor will monitor you closely if you have diabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes. You are likely to be at risk of developing diabetes if you have high levels of sugars and fats in your blood, are overweight and have high blood pressure.

Other medicines and Torvan

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

There are some medicines that may change the effect of Torvan or their effect may be changed by Torvan. This type of interaction could make one or both of the medicines less effective. Alternatively it could increase the risk or severity of side-effects, including the important muscle wasting condition known as rhabdomyolysis described in Section 4:

- medicines used to alter the way your immune system works, e.g. ciclosporin
- certain antibiotics or antifungal medicines, e.g. erythromycin, clarithromycin, telithromycin, ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, fluconazole, posaconazole, rifampin, fusidic acid
- other medicines to regulate lipid levels, e.g. gemfibrozil, other fibrates, colestipol
- some calcium channel blockers used for angina or high blood pressure, e.g. amlodipine, diltiazem; medicines to regulate your heart rhythm e.g. digoxin, verapamil, amiodarone
- medicines used in the treatment of HIV e.g. ritonavir, lopinavir, atazanavir, indinavir, darunavir, the combination of tipranavir/ritonavir etc.
- some medicines used in the treatment of hepatitis C e.g. telaprevir
- other medicines known to interact with Torvan include ezetimibe (which lowers cholesterol), warfarin (which reduces blood clotting), oral contraceptives, stiripentol (an anti-convulsant for epilepsy), cimetidine (used for heartburn and peptic ulcers), phenazone (a painkiller), colchicine (used to treat gout) and antacids (indigestion products containing aluminium or magnesium) boceprevir (used to treat liver disease such as hepatitis C)
- medicines obtained without a prescription: St John’s Wort.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

If you need to take oral fusidic acid to treat a bacterial infection you will need to temporarily stop using this medicine. Your doctor will tell you when it is safe to restart Atorvastatin. Taking Atorvastatin with fusidic acid may rarely lead to muscle weakness, tenderness or pain (rhabdomyolysis). See more information regarding rhabdomyolysis in section 4.

Torvan with food, drink and alcohol

See Section 3 for instructions on how to take Torvan. Please note the following:

Grapefruit juice

Do not take more than one or two small glasses of grapefruit juice per day because large quantities of grapefruit juice can change the effects of Torvan.

Alcohol

Avoid drinking too much alcohol while taking this medicine. See Section 2 “Warnings and Precautions” for details.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Do not take Torvan if you are pregnant, or if you are trying to become pregnant. Do not take Torvan if you are able to become pregnant unless you use reliable contraceptive measures. Do not take Torvan if you are breast-feeding. The safety of Torvan during pregnancy and breast-feeding has not yet been proven. If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Normally this medicine does not affect your ability to drive or operate machines. However, do not drive if this medicine affects your ability to drive. Do not use any tools or machines if your ability to use them is affected by this medicine.

3. How to take Torvan

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Before starting treatment, your doctor will place you on a low-cholesterol diet, which you should maintain also during therapy with Torvan.

The recommended starting dose of Torvan is 10 mg once a day in adults and children aged 10 years or older. This may be increased if necessary by your doctor until you are taking the amount you need. Your doctor will adapt the dose at intervals of 4 weeks or more. The maximum dose of Torvan is 80 mg once daily for adults and 20 mg once daily for children.

Torvan tablets should be swallowed whole with a drink of water, and can be taken at any time of day, with or without food. However, try to take your tablet at the same time every day.

The duration of treatment with Torvan is determined by your doctor.

Please ask your doctor if you think that the effect of Torvan is too strong or too weak.

If you take more Torvan than you should

If you accidentally take too many Torvan tablets (more than your usual daily dose), contact your doctor or nearest hospital for advice.

If you forget to take Torvan

If you forget to take a dose, just take your next scheduled dose at the correct time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

**If you stop taking Torvan**

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine or wish to stop your treatment, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, Torvan can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking your tablets and tell your doctor immediately or go to the nearest hospital accident and emergency department.**

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- serious allergic reaction which causes swelling of the face, tongue and throat that can cause great difficulty in breathing.
- serious illness with severe peeling and swelling of the skin, blistering of the skin, mouth, eyes, genitals and fever. Skin rash with pink-red blotches especially on palms of hands or soles of feet which may blister.
- muscle weakness, tenderness or pain and particularly, if at the same time, you feel unwell or have a high temperature, it may be caused by an abnormal muscle breakdown. The abnormal muscle breakdown does not always go away, even after you have stopped taking atorvastatin, and it can be life-threatening and lead to kidney problems.

Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):

- if you experience problems with unexpected or unusual bleeding or bruising, this may be suggestive of a liver complaint. You should consult your doctor as soon as possible.

**Other possible side effects with Torvan:**

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) include:

- inflammation of the nasal passages, pain in the throat, nose bleed
- allergic reactions
- increases in blood sugar levels (if you have diabetes continue careful monitoring of your blood sugar levels), increase in blood creatine kinase
- headache
- nausea, constipation, wind, indigestion, diarrhoea
- joint pain, muscle pain and back pain
- blood test results that show your liver function can become abnormal

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people) include:

- anorexia (loss of appetite), weight gain, decreases in blood sugar levels (if you have diabetes you should continue careful monitoring of your blood sugar levels)
- having nightmares, insomnia
- dizziness, numbness or tingling in the fingers and toes, reductions of sensation to pain or touch, change in sense of taste, loss of memory
- blurred vision
- ringing in the ears and/or head
- vomiting, belching, abdominal pain upper and lower, pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas leading to stomach pain)
- hepatitis (liver inflammation)
- rash, skin rash and itching, hives, hair loss
- neck pain, muscle fatigue
- fatigue, feeling unwell, weakness, chest pain, swelling especially in the ankles (oedema), raised temperature
- urine tests that are positive for white blood cells

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people) include:

- visual disturbance
- unexpected bleeding or bruising
- cholestasis (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes)
- tendon injury

Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people) include:

- an allergic reaction - symptoms may include sudden wheezing and chest pain or tightness, swelling of the eyelids, face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat, difficulty breathing, collapse
- hearing loss
- gynecomastia (breast enlargement in men and women).

Possible side effects reported with some statins (medicines of the same type):

- sexual difficulties
- depression
- breathing problems including persistent cough and/or shortness of breath or fever
- diabetes: This is more likely if you have high levels of sugars and fats in your blood, are overweight and have high blood pressure. Your doctor will monitor you while you are taking this medicine.

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: + 353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517; Website: www.hpra.ie; e-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5. How to store Torvan**

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- This medicinal product does not require any special temperature storage conditions.
- Blister: Store in the original packaging in order to protect from moisture.
- Bottle: Keep the plastic bottle tightly closed in order to protect from moisture.

Do not use Torvan after the expiry date which is stated on the carton, blister and bottle after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

**6. Contents of the pack and other information**

**What Torvan contains**

The active substance is atorvastatin.

- Each Torvan 10 mg Film-coated tablet contains atorvastatin calcium (propylene glycol solvate) equivalent to 10 mg atorvastatin.
- Each Torvan 20 mg Film-coated tablet contains atorvastatin calcium (propylene glycol solvate) equivalent to 20 mg atorvastatin.
- Each Torvan 40 mg Film-coated tablet contains atorvastatin calcium (propylene glycol solvate) equivalent to 40 mg atorvastatin.
- Each Torvan 80 mg Film-coated tablet contains atorvastatin calcium (propylene glycol solvate) equivalent to 80 mg atorvastatin.

The other ingredients are calcium acetate, cellulose microcrystalline (E460), colloidal silicon dioxide, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, sodium carbonate anhydrous, hydroxypropylcellulose (E463), hypromellose (E464), Macrogol 8000 and titanium dioxide (E171).

**What Torvan looks like and contents of the pack**

Torvan 10 mg Film-coated tablets are white, oval, biconvex film coated tablets with ‘APO’ on one side and ‘A10’ on the other side.

Torvan 20 mg Film-coated tablets are white, oval, biconvex film coated tablets with ‘APO’ on one side and ‘ATV20’ on the other side.

Torvan 40 mg Film-coated tablets are white, oval, biconvex film coated tablets with ‘APO’ on one side and ‘ATV40’ on the other side.

Torvan 80 mg Film-coated tablets are white, oval, biconvex film coated tablets with ‘APO’ on one side and ‘ATV80’ on the other side.

The tablets are available in blister packs of 7, 10, 28, 30, 60, 98, 100 and 500 tablets and bottles of 30, 90 and 100 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

This medicine is available as 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg film-coated tablets.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

*Marketing authorisation holder:*

Pinewood Laboratories Ltd.,  
Ballymacarby,  
Clonmel,  
Co. Tipperary,  
Ireland.

*Manufacturer:*

Apotex Nederland B.V.  
Archimedesweg 2, 2333 CN  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

Lamp S. Prospero S.p.A.

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41100 Modena (MO)  
Italy

S.I.I.T. S.r.l.

Via Ariosto 50/60  
20090 Trezzano Sul Naviglio (MI)  
Italy

**This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:**

NL: Atorvastatine Apotex 10mg, 20mg, 40mg & 80mg, filmomhulde tabletten

BE: Atorvastatin Apotex 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, 80mg

CZ: APO-ATORVASTATIN 10mg, 20mg, 40mg & 80mg potahované tablety

ES: Atorvastatine Apotex 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, 80mg comprimidos recubiertos con película

IE: Torvan 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, 80mg film-coated tablets

IT: ATORVASTATINA DOC Generici 10mg, 20mg, 40mg & 80mg compresse rivestite con film

LU: Atorvastatin Apotex 10mg, 30mg, 40mg & 80mg

PL: Apo-Atorva

PA Number: 281/150/1-4

**This leaflet was last revised in December 2015**

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