

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Atorvastatin 10 mg Film-coated tablets
 Atorvastatin 20 mg Film-coated tablets
 Atorvastatin 40 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 your 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 Atorvastatin is and what it is used for
 2. What you need to know before you take Atorvastatin
 3. How to take Atorvastatin
 4. Possible side effects
 - 5 How to store Atorvastatin
 6. Contents of the pack and other information

1 What Atorvastatin is and what it is used for

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

Atorvastatin 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, Atorvastatin 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 Atorvastatin

- Do not take **Atorvastatin**:
- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to Atorvastatin or to any similar medicines used to lower blood lipids or to any of the other ingredients of the 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 Atorvastatin.

- The following are reasons why Atorvastatin 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.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Atorvastatin

- 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 Atorvastatin 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 Atorvastatin”).

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 Atorvastatin**
 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 Atorvastatin or their effect may be changed by Atorvastatin. 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 Atorvastatin 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)
- Medicines obtained without a prescription: St John’s Wort

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

Atorvastatin with food, drink and alcohol
 See Section 3 for instructions on how to take Atorvastatin. 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 Atorvastatin.

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

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
 Do not take Atorvastatin if you are pregnant, or if you are trying to become pregnant.
 Do not take Atorvastatin if you are able to become pregnant unless you use reliable contraceptive measures.
 Do not take Atorvastatin if you are breast-feeding. The safety of Atorvastatin during pregnancy and breast-feeding has not yet been proven. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any 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.

Atorvastatin contains lactose.
 If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

3 How to take Atorvastatin

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

The usual starting dose of Atorvastatin 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 Atorvastatin is 80 mg once daily for adults and 20 mg once daily for children.

Atorvastatin 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.

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

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

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

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

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

continued on the next page >>

4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine 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 1000 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 which 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 Atorvastatin:

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 1000 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 sugar 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, pharmacist or nurse. 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 Atorvastatin

Keep this medicine out of sight and reach of children.

Do not use Atorvastatin after expiry date which is stated on the carton and the bottle and the blister. The expiry

date refers to the last day of that month.

HDPE bottles:

After first opening the container: the shelf life is 6 months.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

HDPE bottles:

After first opening the container:

Do not store above 25°C.

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 Atorvastatin contains

The active substance is: atorvastatin (as atorvastatin calcium).

Atorvastatin 10 mg Film-coated tablets

Each film-coated tablet of Atorvastatin contains 10 mg atorvastatin (as atorvastatin calcium).

Atorvastatin 20 mg Film-coated tablets

Each film-coated tablet of Atorvastatin contains 20 mg atorvastatin (as atorvastatin calcium).

Atorvastatin 40 mg Film-coated tablets

Each film-coated tablet of Atorvastatin contains 40 mg atorvastatin (as atorvastatin calcium).

The other ingredients are:

Core: Sodium carbonate anhydrous, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium starch glycolate (type A), povidone (K 25), colloidal anhydrous silica, magnesium stearate

Coating: hypromellose, macrogol 4000, titanium dioxide, lactose monohydrate

What Atorvastatin looks like and contents of the pack

Atorvastatin 10 mg Film-coated tablets

White, oval film-coated tablet, with breakline and embossment "10".

The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

Atorvastatin 20 mg Film-coated tablets

White, oval film-coated tablet, with breakline and embossment "20".

The tablet can be divided into equal halves.

Atorvastatin 40 mg Film-coated tablets

White, round film-coated tablet, with breakline for tablet quarters and embossment "40".

The tablet can be divided into equal quarters.

Aluminium/aluminium blister

Pack sizes: 10, 15, 20, 28, 30, 50, 90, 100 film-coated tablets

HDPE bottles closed with a tamper-evident polypropylene twist-off cap where a dessicant plug is included.

Pack sizes: 100 Film-coated tablets

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturers

Marketing Authorisation Holder:
Rowex Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Manufacturers:

Salutas Pharma GmbH, Otto-von-Guericke-Allee 1, 39179 Barleben, Germany.

Salutas Pharma GmbH, Dieselstrasse 5, 70839 Gerlingen, Germany.

Lek Pharmaceuticals d.d., Verovškova 57, 1526 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Lek Pharmaceuticals d.d., Trimlini 2 D, 9220 Lendava, Slovenia.

LEK S.A., ul. Domaniewska 50 C, 02-672 Warszawa, Poland.

Aeropharm GmbH, Francois-Mitterand-Allee 1, 07407 Rudolstadt, Germany.

Basics GmbH, Hemmelrather Weg 201, 51377 Leverkusen, Germany.

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

AT: Atolipidrin 10 mg – Filmtabletten
Atolipidrin 20 mg – Filmtabletten
Atolipidrin 40 mg – Filmtabletten

DE: Atorvastatin Hexal 10 mg Filmtabletten
Atorvastatin Hexal 20 mg Filmtabletten
Atorvastatin Hexal 40 mg Filmtabletten

IE: Atorvastatin 10 mg Film-coated tablets
Atorvastatin 20 mg Film-coated tablets
Atorvastatin 40 mg Film-coated tablets

IT: Atorvastatina Angenerico 10 mg compresse rivestite con film
Atorvastatina Angenerico 20 mg compresse rivestite con film
Atorvastatina Angenerico 40 mg compresse rivestite con film

LU: Atorvastatin polymorph HEXAL 10 mg
Atorvastatin polymorph HEXAL 20 mg
Atorvastatin polymorph HEXAL 40 mg

This leaflet was last approved in 08/2014

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