

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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ATORVASTATIN - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Lipitor

USES: This medication is used to lower high cholesterol levels and triglyceride in the blood and can help prevent coronary atherosclerosis (blockage of the heart's arteries) to reduce the risk of heart attack.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: This medication may be taken with or without meals, usually once daily.

For best results this medication should be used along with doctor-approved exercise and a low cholesterol/low fat diet. If you are overweight, weight loss is important in decreasing the risk of heart attacks.

It may take a few weeks to months before the full effects of this medication are noticed.

SIDE EFFECTS: Overall this medication is generally well tolerated. Diarrhea or constipation or stomach pain may occur. If these effects persist or worsen, inform your doctor.

Unlikely but report muscle pain/tenderness/weakness, aches, fever, rash, facial area swelling or itching or dizziness.

Very unlikely but report yellowing of eyes or skin, vomiting, vision problems, trouble breathing or black stools.

PRECAUTIONS: Before taking atorvastatin tell your doctor if you have liver disease, a severe infection, heart disease, thyroid problems, uncontrolled seizures, recent major surgery, low blood pressure, any allergies or any other medical problems.

If this medication makes you dizzy or lightheaded, use caution driving or engaging in activities requiring alertness.

Limit alcohol intake as this can damage the liver and cause increased side effects.

Atorvastatin should not be used during pregnancy. If you become pregnant or think you may be pregnant, inform your doctor immediately. This drug may be excreted into breast milk. Because of the possible adverse effects to the infant, breast-feeding is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor of all over-the-counter or prescription medication you may take including clofibrate, cyclosporine, erythromycin, gemfibrozil, niacin (nicotinic acid), azole antifungals (e.g., ketoconazole, itraconazole), antacids

(e.g., Maalox, Mylanta), digoxin and birth control pills.

NOTES: Your doctor may periodically perform lab tests during treatment to evaluate the effectiveness of the medication.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose. Instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the doses.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature between 68 and 77 degrees F (between 20 and 25 degrees C) away from moisture and heat. Do not store in the bathroom.