

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC
670 Lawn Ave., Suite 3A Sellersville, PA 18960
Tel (215)257-9500 FAX (215) 257-9500

FLUVASTATIN - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Lescol

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

For best results this medication should be used along with exercise and a low cholesterol/low fat diet.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take this medication by mouth exactly as prescribed, usually at bedtime. Do not take this more often or increase the dose without your doctor's approval. Your cholesterol level will not lower faster but the risk of side effects will be increased.

SIDE EFFECTS: Headache, fatigue, stomach upset, stomach pain and diarrhea may occur the first several days as your body adjusts to the medication. If any of these effects continue or become bothersome, inform your doctor. Notify your doctor if you develop muscle aches or tenderness (especially if fever is present), chest pain, a rapid or pounding heart rate, weakness, skin rash or vomiting while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: Before taking fluvastatin tell your doctor if you have liver disease, a severe infection, kidney disease, heart disease, low thyroid function or any allergies.

Heavy drinking of alcohol can increase blood levels of fluvastatin. Do not drink heavily while taking fluvastatin.

Fluvastatin should not be used during pregnancy. If you become pregnant or think you may be pregnant, inform your doctor immediately. Fluvastatin is known to be excreted into breast milk. Because of the possible adverse effects to the infant, do not breast-feed.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor of any over-the-counter or prescription medication you may take, including cyclosporine, gemfibrozil, erythromycin, niacin, cimetidine, ranitidine, omeprazole, rifampin, cholestyramine, colestipol or itraconazole.

NOTES: This medication is used only after diet therapy has been tried. This is not a substitute for diet and a low-fat, low cholesterol diet must be maintained while taking this medication.

Liver function tests will be performed to monitor side effects.

MISSED DOSE: Try to take each dose at the scheduled time. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered; do not take it if it is near the time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE: Store this medication below 86 degrees F (30 degrees C) away from heat and light. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep this and all medications out of the reach of children.