

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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LOVASTATIN - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Mevacor

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: This medication is usually taken with the evening meal. Take as directed.

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

This drug must be taken regularly to keep cholesterol low.

SIDE EFFECTS: Stomach upset, gas, heartburn, change of taste, diarrhea, constipation, skin rash, impotence, insomnia, headache, dizziness or blurred vision may occur the first few days as your body adjusts to the medication. If these effects persist or become bothersome, inform your doctor.

Notify MD promptly if you experience muscle cramps, fever, unusual tiredness or weakness, vision changes or yellowing eyes and skin.

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

PRECAUTIONS: Before taking lovastatin tell your doctor if you have liver disease, a severe infection, kidney disease, low blood pressure, low thyroid function, seizures, history or alcoholism or any allergies, especially drug allergies.

Limit alcohol intake, as this may aggravate drug side effects.

Before having surgery, tell the doctor or dentist in charge that you are taking lovastatin.

Lovastatin should not be used during pregnancy. If you become pregnant or think you may be pregnant, inform your doctor immediately. It is not known if lovastatin is 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 prescription or nonprescription drugs you take especially niacin, cyclosporine,

erythromycin, gemfibrozil, anticoagulants ("blood thinners"), azole antifungals (e.g., ketoconazole, itraconazole), clarithromycin and nefazodone.

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 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 dose to catch up.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature between 59 and 86 degrees F (between 15 and 30 degrees C) away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.