

ADVERTISEMENT

Get Consumer Health Updates on Drugs.com

In partnership with

View Updates

Drug Information Online

enter a search term

Search

Browse all medications

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Advanced Search

Phonetic Search

Home

Drugs A to Z

Pill Identifier

Interactions Checker

News & Alerts

Health Professionals

Community

Mednotes

Drugs A to Z

Drugs by Condition

Drugs by Class

Side Effects

Dosage

Pregnancy

Natural Products

Vet Drugs

Symptom Checker

Harvard Health Topics

Twitter

Facebook

LinkedIn

Home > Drugs by Condition > H > High Cholesterol > Zocor Consumer Information

Print

Save or Share

Zocor

Generic Name: simvastatin (SIM va sta tin)

Brand Names: Zocor

Ads by Google

Cholesterol Lowering Food

healthdesk.com

Lists Of Foods To Help Lower Your Cholesterol Naturally.

Heartburn Triggering Food

Prevacid24HR.com/food

Learn Which Foods Trigger Heartburn & How To Avoid Them.

Normal Cholesterol Level

dailylife.com

Find The Normal Cholesterol Level For Your Age, Sex & Lifestyle!

Sign In or Register

Forgot password?

username

password

Sign In

Related Zocor Information

10+ years

Approval History

FDA approved 1991

X

Pregnancy Category

Not for use in pregnancy

Rx

Availability

Prescription only

N/A

CSA Schedule

Not a controlled drug

Reviews

Average User Rating

10 User Reviews

6.1

Rate it!

Related Pages

Detailed Side Effects

Drug Interactions

Drug Images

Pregnancy & Breastfeeding

Dosage Information

Support Group Q & A

Drug Class

Statins (HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors)

ADVERTISEMENT

Related Drugs

High Cholesterol

simvastatin, Crestor, atorvastatin, Lipitor, pravastatin, gemfibrozil, More...

High Cholesterol, Familial Heterozygous

simvastatin, Crestor, atorvastatin, Lipitor, pravastatin, lovastatin, More...

Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IIa, Elevated LDL

simvastatin, Crestor, atorvastatin, Lipitor, pravastatin, fenofibrate, More...

High Cholesterol, Familial Homozygous

simvastatin, Crestor, atorvastatin, Lipitor, Vytorin, rosuvastatin,

What is Zocor?

Zocor is in a group of drugs called HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, or "statins." Simvastatin reduces levels of "bad" cholesterol (low-density lipoprotein, or LDL) and triglycerides in the blood, while increasing levels of "good" cholesterol (high-density lipoprotein, or HDL).

ADVERTISEMENT

Zocor is used to lower cholesterol and triglycerides (types of fat) in the blood.

Zocor is also used to lower the risk of stroke, heart attack, and other heart complications in people with diabetes, coronary heart disease, or other risk factors

Zocor is used in adults and children who are at least 10 years old.

Zocor may also be used for other purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Important information about Zocor

You should not take Zocor if you are allergic to simvastatin, if you are pregnant or breast-

http://www.drugs.com/zocor.html[3/29/2011 1:47:05 PM]

feeding, or if you have liver disease. Stop taking Zocor and tell your doctor right away if you [become pregnant](#).

Before taking Zocor, tell your doctor if you have ever had liver or kidney disease, diabetes, or a thyroid disorder, if you are of Chinese descent, or if you drink more than 2 alcoholic beverages daily.

In rare cases, Zocor can cause a condition that results in the breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue, leading to kidney failure. Call your doctor right away if you have unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness especially if you also have fever, unusual tiredness, and dark colored urine.

Avoid [eating](#) foods that are high in fat or cholesterol. Zocor will not be as effective in lowering your cholesterol if you do not follow a cholesterol-lowering diet plan.

Avoid drinking alcohol. It can raise triglyceride levels and may increase your risk of liver damage.

There are many other drugs that can increase your risk of serious medical problems if you take them together with Zocor. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to any healthcare provider who treats you.

Zocor is only part of a complete program of treatment that also includes diet, exercise, and weight control. Follow your diet, medication, and exercise routines very closely.

Before taking Zocor

You should not take Zocor if you are allergic to simvastatin, if you are pregnant or breast-feeding, or if you have liver disease.

If you have any of these other conditions, your doctor may need adjust the dose of Zocor or order special tests:

- history of liver disease;
- history of kidney disease;
- diabetes;
- a thyroid disorder; or
- if you drink more than 2 alcoholic beverages daily.

In rare cases, Zocor can cause a condition that results in the breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue, leading to kidney failure. This condition may be more likely to occur in older adults and in people who have kidney disease or poorly controlled hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid). You may also be more likely to develop this condition if you are of Chinese descent and you take high-dose Zocor while also taking medication that contains niacin (Advicor, Niaspan, Niacor, Simcor, Slo-Niacin, and others).

Tell your doctor about all other medications you use. Certain other drugs can increase your risk of serious muscle problems, and it is very important that your doctor knows if you are using any of them:

- amiodarone (Cordarone, Pacerone);
- danazol (Danocrine);
- nefazodone (an antidepressant);
- gemfibrozil (Lopid), fenofibric acid (Fibracor, Trilipix), or fenofibrate (Antara, Fenoglide, Lipofen, Lofibra, Tricor, Triglide);
- antibiotics such as clarithromycin (Biaxin), erythromycin (E.E.S., EryPed, Ery-Tab, Erythrocin), or telithromycin (Ketek);

[More...](#)

[4 more conditions...](#)

Related Video



[Cholesterol](#)

Why it's so important to manage your cholesterol levels.

Drug Images



[View all 5 images](#)

Get Updates by Email

Email me about Zocor:

News and Warnings related to this drug

Also send the Drugs.com monthly newsletter
FDA Medwatch Alerts for all medications

[Get Notified](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Lower Your Blood Pressure - The All Natural Way

The only non-drug medical device clinically proven to lower blood pressure [www.resperate.com](#)

\$350,000 in Life Insurance

Protect Your Family Today. Coverage as low as \$13.04/month. Free Quote Here [BestQuoteMarket.com](#)

Weight Loss Medicine

Immediate weight loss - reduces fat absorption - less fat means less pounds [www.pharmcom.com](#)

Related News and Articles

Statins Might Help HIV Patients, Study Suggests

24 Feb 2011

Preliminary research suggests that statins restrain the immune systems of HIV patients and may stave off progression of the AIDS-causing virus. Although it's ...

Blood Protein Level May Not Influence Effectiveness of Statins

28 Jan 2011

A new study debunks the idea that the cholesterol-

- antifungal medications such as fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), or ketoconazole (Extina, Ketozole, Nizoral, Xolegal);
- heart or blood pressure medication such as diltiazem (Cartia, Cardizem) or verapamil (Calan, Covera, Isoptin, Verelan);
- HIV medications such as atazanavir (Reyataz), ritonavir (Norvir), lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra), saquinavir (Invirase), and others;
- medicines that contain niacin (Advicor, Niaspan, Niacor, Simcor, Slo-Niacin, and others); or
- drugs that weaken your immune system, such as steroids, cancer medicine, or medicines used to prevent organ transplant rejection, such as cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune), sirolimus (Rapamune), or tacrolimus (Prograf).

FDA pregnancy category X. Zocor can harm an unborn baby or cause birth defects. Do not take Zocor if you are pregnant. Stop taking this medication and tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant. Use effective [birth control](#) to avoid pregnancy while you are taking Zocor. Simvastatin may pass into breast milk and could harm a nursing baby. Do not breast-feed while you are taking Zocor.

See also: [Zocor pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (in more detail)

[Ads by Google](#)

[I Had High Blood Pressure](#)

Now it's down to 120/75. Find out how I did it without drugs
[RESPeRATE.com](#)

[Foods To Raise Hdl](#)

Foods To Raise Hdl Cholesterol Get Advice From Our Fitness Experts
[StayingFit.com](#)

[Femara® HCP Information](#)

Find Patient Support Info on Femara® (letrozole) 2.5 mg tablets.
[Femara.com/HealthcareProviders](#)

How should I take Zocor?

Take Zocor exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Zocor is usually taken at bedtime or with an evening meal. If you take Zocor more than once daily, take it with meals. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. You may need to stop using Zocor for a short time if you have surgery or a medical emergency.

To be sure Zocor is helping your condition and is not causing harmful effects, your blood will need to be tested often. Your liver function may also need to be tested. Visit your doctor regularly.

Zocor is only part of a complete program of treatment that also includes diet, exercise, and weight control. Follow your diet, medication, and exercise routines very closely.

You may need to take Zocor on a long-term basis for the treatment of high cholesterol. Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

See also: [Zocor dosage](#) (in more detail)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

fighting drugs known as statins work better in people with high levels of a certain protein and may not work ...

No Evidence That Statins Benefit 'Worried Well' Patients, Says Study

20 Jan 2011

From Scotsman, The (Scotland) (January 20, 2011)
SCOTTISH experts have backed a report claiming there is no evidence supporting widespread use of ...

Statins May Be Harmful After Stroke

11 Jan 2011

Patients given cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins after suffering a stroke caused by bleeding in the brain may be at an increased risk of having ...

Statins OK for Patients With Abnormal Liver Function: Study

24 Nov 2010

Long-term use of cholesterol-lowering statins does not increase the risk of liver disease in patients with abnormal liver function, and can actually improve ...

[View more...](#)

Help and Support

Looking for answers? [Ask a question](#) or go join the [Zocor support group](#) to connect with others who have similar interests.



Harvard Health Publications

SPECIAL HEALTH REPORT



What to do about High Cholesterol

Available in print with Free Shipping or instant download.

[Learn More](#) **Save 30%**

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking Zocor?

Avoid eating foods that are high in fat or cholesterol. Zocor will not be as effective in lowering your cholesterol if you do not follow a cholesterol-lowering diet plan.

Avoid drinking alcohol. It can raise triglyceride levels and may increase your risk of liver damage.

Grapefruit and grapefruit juice may interact with Zocor and lead to potentially dangerous effects. Discuss the use of grapefruit products with your doctor. Do not increase or decrease the amount of grapefruit products in your diet without first talking to your doctor.

Ads by Google

[Try OMNARIS® For Less](#)

Pay as low as \$11 for each of your 12 OMNARIS® (ciclesonide) Rx's.
[www.OMNARIS.com](#)

[Wavy Lines? Blind Spots?](#)

These are symptoms of wet AMD. Learn about risk factors today.
[www.AMDAwareness.org](#)

[Drug costs too high?](#)

Save money. Up to 75% off on your prescription drugs
[www.yourrxdiscounts.com](#)

Zocor side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction to Zocor: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. Stop taking Zocor and call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness;
- fever, unusual tiredness, and dark colored urine;
- pain or burning when you urinate;
- swelling, weight gain, urinating less than usual or not at all; or
- nausea, upper stomach pain, itching, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Less serious Zocor side effects may include:

- headache;
- mild muscle pain;
- joint pain;
- constipation;
- mild nausea;
- stomach pain or indigestion;
- mild skin rash;
- sleep problems (insomnia); or
- cold symptoms such as stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also: [Zocor side effects](#) (in more detail)

What other drugs will affect Zocor?

Before taking Zocor, tell your doctor about all other medicines you are using, especially:

- digoxin (Lanoxin);
- a blood thinner such as warfarin (Coumadin); or
- any other "statin" medication such as atorvastatin (Lipitor, Caduet), fluvastatin (Lescol), lovastatin (Altoprev, Mevacor), pravastatin (Pravachol), rosuvastatin (Crestor), or other medication that contains simvastatin (Simcor, Vytorin).

This list is not complete and other drugs may interact with Zocor. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

More Zocor resources

- [Zocor Side Effects](#) (in more detail)
- [Zocor Dosage](#)
- [Zocor Use in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#)
- [Drug Images](#)
- [Zocor Drug Interactions](#)
- [Zocor Support Group](#)
- [10 Reviews for Zocor](#) - [Add your own review/rating](#)

- Professional [Zocor Prescribing Information](#) (FDA)
- Med Facts [Zocor MedFacts Consumer Leaflet](#) (Wolters Kluwer)
- Advanced [Zocor Advanced Consumer](#) (Micromedex) - Includes Dosage Information
- Professional [Simvastatin Prescribing Information](#) (FDA)
- Professional [Simvastatin Monograph](#) (AHFS DI)
- Professional [Simvastatin Professional Patient Advice](#) (Wolters Kluwer)

Compare Zocor with other medications

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Cholesterol• High Cholesterol, Familial Homozygous• Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IIb, Elevated LDL VLDL• Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IV, Elevated VLDL | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Cholesterol, Familial Heterozygous• Hyperlipoproteinemia• Hyperlipoproteinemia Type IIa, Elevated LDL• Hyperlipoproteinemia Type III, Elevated beta-VLDL IDL |
|---|--|

Where can I get more information?

- Your pharmacist can provide more information about Zocor.

What does my medication look like?

Simvastatin is available with a prescription under the brand name Zocor. Other brand or generic formulations may also be available. Ask your pharmacist any questions you have about this medication, especially if it is new to you.

- Zocor 5 mg - shield-shaped, buff, film-coated tablets
- Zocor 10 mg - shield-shaped, peach-colored, film-coated tablets
- Zocor 20 mg - shield-shaped, tan, film-coated tablets

-
- Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is [accurate](#), up-to-date, and complete, but no guarantee is made to that effect. Drug information contained herein may be time sensitive. Multum's drug information is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients and/or to serve consumers

viewing this service as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise, skill, knowledge and judgment of healthcare practitioners. The absence of a warning for a given drug or drug combination in no way should be construed to indicate that the drug or drug combination is safe, effective or appropriate for any given patient. The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects.

Copyright 1996-2010 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 11.01. Revision Date: 04/14/2010 12:46:31 PM.

 [Printable Version](#)

 [Email](#)

[Recommend](#)

 [Tweet](#)

 [Save or Share](#)

Ads by Google

Blood Pressure - No Drugs

Discover what the Chinese have used for centuries for blood pressure.
[www.elixirindustry.com](#)

Warfarin Testing at Home

Finally, a safe, easy Warfarin test taken at home - fewer office visits
[www.ptinr.com](#)

 enter a search term

Search

Ads by Google [Drug Rehab](#) [Alcohol Rehab](#) [Holistic Drug](#) [Drug Clinic](#)

Support	About Drugs.com	Your Privacy
Advertise With Us Frequently Asked Questions Pharmaceutical Companies Widgets for your Website Content Submissions About Drugs.com Contact Us Sitemap Follow us on:  	Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines & natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be used for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex™ (updated Feb 3rd, 2011), Cerner Multum™ (updated Mar 18th, 2011), Wolters Kluwer™ (updated Mar 5th, 2011) and others. To view content sources and attributions, refer to our editorial policy. Copyright © 2000-2011 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.	 TRUSTe CERTIFIED PRIVACY Verify Here  We comply with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information. Verify here  Ad Choices Terms of Use · Privacy Policy