

ZOCOR® (Simvastatin 5, 10, 20, 40 and 80 mg)

Fact Sheet

About the Product

- Merck Frosst introduced simvastatin in August 1990 for patients with elevated cholesterol levels.
- Simvastatin acts by suppressing the HMG-CoA reductase enzyme, which catalyses an early and rate limiting step in cholesterol synthesis.
- Simvastatin remains inactive in the body until it reaches the target site of action, the liver, where it is converted into its active form.
- Simvastatin reduces both total cholesterol and LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol, a protein complex that is the major transporter of cholesterol from the liver to the surrounding tissues. The lipids found in the thickening of artery walls come mainly from LDL cholesterol.

Indications

- Simvastatin is used to treat patients with coronary heart disease and elevated cholesterol to reduce all causes of coronary death, non-fatal heart attacks and heart related surgery. Simvastatin is the only cholesterol-lowering medication indicated to save lives.
- Simvastatin reduces elevated total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, and raises HDL cholesterol in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia, when diet and other lifestyle changes are not enough.

- Simvastatin reduces elevated cholesterol levels in patients with combined hypercholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia, when the hypercholesterolemia is of greater concern.

How Simvastatin Works

Simvastatin lowers cholesterol levels by:

- inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase, an enzyme that stimulates cholesterol synthesis in the liver; and thereby,
- increasing production of LDL receptors, which clear LDL cholesterol from the blood.

Patient Compliance

- Patient compliance is facilitated by the convenience of a single evening dose administered in a range of five to 80 mg, and by the fact that simvastatin, when combined with diet, often results in a sufficient lowering of cholesterol levels and alleviates the need for multiple medications.

Side Effects/Drug Interactions

- Based on experience in more than 35 million patients, the drug is well tolerated.

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