

EZETIMIBE

Other names: Ezetrol®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine?

Ezetimibe belongs to a group of medicines known as lipid (fat) regulating drugs and it is used to treat high cholesterol in adults and children over 10 years of age.

Cholesterol is a type of lipid, or fat. It is made naturally in your body from the food that you eat. When the concentration of cholesterol in your blood becomes too high, it is called hypercholesterolaemia. In people with hypercholesterolaemia, cholesterol can build up in blood vessels and this increases the risk of you having heart and blood vessel diseases, such as a heart attack or a stroke. High levels of cholesterol do not make people feel ill but can cause problems if left untreated.

Ezetimibe works by reducing the amount of cholesterol we absorb from food. Ezetimibe is used in combination with a cholesterol-lowering diet. In addition, you may also be prescribed other medicines to take in helping to lower the cholesterol blood levels further.

When to take this medicine

Ezetimibe should be taken ONCE a day with or without food in the evening.

It may take up to 2 weeks of using this medicine before your cholesterol levels improve.

DO NOT STOP taking this medicine without your doctor's permission.

If you miss a dose

Take your dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- swelling of the lips, face or mouth
- yellowing of the skin or whites of your eyes
- unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness with fever or flu symptoms

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you:

- stomach pain, nausea, diarrhoea
- headache
- dizziness

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Before taking ezetimibe, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- cyclosporin (a drug often used in organ transplant patients)
- fibrates like gemfibrozil and bezafibrate (medicines for lowering cholesterol)

Avoid drinking too much alcohol while you are being treated with ezetimibe. Alcohol can also increase your cholesterol levels.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.