

SIMVASTATIN with EZETIMIBE

Other names: Vytorin®



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?

The body naturally makes cholesterol (a type of fat). Normally the body balances the cholesterol it makes with the cholesterol it gets from food. This means if more cholesterol comes from food, less is made by the body. However, if you eat a diet high in fat, your body may not keep this balance and your cholesterol levels rise.

High levels of cholesterol do not make people feel ill but can cause heart problems if left untreated. Cholesterol can build up in blood vessels and this increases the risk of having heart and blood vessel diseases, such as a heart attack or a stroke.

Vytorin works to reduce your cholesterol in two ways. It reduces the cholesterol absorbed from your stomach/gut, as well as blocking the natural production of cholesterol your body makes. Vytorin does not help you lose weight.

When to take this medicine

Vytorin 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 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:

- unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness with fever or flu symptoms
- decreased urine or rust-coloured urine
- blurred vision
- fever or sickness
- weight loss
- difficulty breathing
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes)

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

- stomach pain, nausea, diarrhoea
- cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose
- tiredness
- headache
- skin rash or itching
- dizziness
- forgetfulness

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 medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

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

- cyclosporin (a drug often used in organ transplant patients)
- medicine like itraconazole (medicine for fungal infections)
- fibrates like gemfibrozil and bezafibrate (medicines for lowering cholesterol)
- antibiotics for bacterial infections (e.g. erythromycin, clarithromycin)
- HIV protease inhibitors such as atazanavir, darunavir, indinavir and ritonavir
- calcium channel blockers (e.g. diltiazem)
- amiodarone (anti-arrhythmic drug)

Do not take grapefruit or grapefruit juice with this medicine.

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.