

## What is most important to remember?

- Use this medicine as directed by your doctor
- It is important to continue taking this medicine even if you feel normal. Most people with high cholesterol or triglycerides do not feel sick
- Do not start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs or herbal remedies without talking to your doctor
- Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists that you are using pravastatin (Pravachol®)
- Contact your prescriber right away if you have severe muscle pain or weakness
- Follow the diet and lifestyle changes that you talked about with your doctor in addition to taking your prescribed medicine to get the greatest health benefits

### If you have questions:

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for more information about pravastatin (Pravachol®)

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### Strong Internal Medicine



### Pravastatin (Pravachol®): Important Patient Information





### What does pravastatin (Pravachol®) do?

- It is used to lower the level of bad cholesterol (LDL), raise the level of good cholesterol (HDL), and lower triglycerides (TG) in the body
- It is used to slow the progression of heart disease

### How should pravastatin (Pravachol®) be used?

- Use this medicine as directed by your doctor
- This medicine is taken one (1) time a day in the evening, at the same time each day
- Take with or without food. Take with food if it causes an upset stomach

### What should I do if I forget a dose?

- Take the missed dose as soon as you think about it
- If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal dose time
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses

### **If you have any of the following side effects, call your doctor or visit the emergency room immediately:**

- Signs of liver problems: dark urine, upset stomach, light-colored stool, yellowing of skin or eyes; throwing up
- Muscle pain or weakness
- Memory problems or loss
- Flu-like signs
- Any bruising or bleeding
- Very bad joint pain or swelling
- Any sign of a severe allergic reaction including: rash; hives; red, swollen, blistered or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness of chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat

### Who should know I am taking pravastatin (Pravachol®)?

- Keep a list of all your medicines (prescription, natural products, supplements, vitamins, over-the-counter) and give it to your healthcare provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, or physician assistant)

### Are there any interactions with other drugs that I need to worry about?

- There are many drug interactions that may increase your risk of side effects
- Do not start new prescription, over-the-counter medicines, or herbal and dietary supplements without telling your doctor

### What side effects could occur with pravastatin (Pravachol®)?

- Upset stomach, throwing up, or diarrhea
- Headache
- Feeling dizzy; rise slowly over a few minutes when sitting or lying down

### What are some things that I need to be aware of when taking pravastatin (Pravachol®)?

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have a "statin" allergy, are allergic to pravastatin, or if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, or substances
  - Before using this medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially if you have active liver disease or a rise in liver enzymes
  - Before using this medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking gemfibrozil (Lopid®)
  - Call your doctor right away if you have very bad muscle pain or weakness, or if your urine turns a muddy brown color
  - Avoid or limit alcohol intake (includes wine, beer, and liquor) to less than 3 drinks per day
  - Tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding. You should not take this medicine while pregnant or breastfeeding
  - Use a proper birth control method to prevent pregnancy while taking this medicine, since it is harmful in pregnancy
  - You may get sunburned more easily. Avoid sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects from the sun
  - It is important to continue taking this medicine even if you feel normal. Most people with high cholesterol or triglycerides do not feel sick
  - Store in a cool, dry place. Protect from light and do not store in the bathroom
  - Keep away from children and pets
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