

Atorvastatin 10mg and Fenofibrate 160mg Tablets IP

STATIX®- F

Composition:
Each Uncoated tablet Contains:
Atorvastatin Calcium IP
equivalent to Atorvastatin 10mg
Fenofibrate IP 160mg
Excipients q.s.

PHARMACEUTICAL FORM
Uncoated tablets

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES
Pharmacodynamic Properties
Pharmacotherapeutic group: HMG CoA reductase inhibitors in combination with other lipid modifying agents (fibrates)
ATC code: atorvastatin C10AA05, fenofibrate C10AB05

Mechanism of Action
Atorvastatin is a selective, competitive inhibitor of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase, the rate-limiting enzyme that converts HMG-CoA to mevalonate, a precursor of sterols, including cholesterol. In animal models, atorvastatin lowers plasma cholesterol and lipoprotein levels by inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase and cholesterol synthesis in the liver and by increasing the number of hepatic low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptors on the cell surface to enhance uptake and catabolism of LDL. atorvastatin also reduces LDL production and the number of LDL particles. Atorvastatin reduces LDL (LDL-C) in some patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (FH), a population that rarely responds to other lipid-lowering medications). Atorvastatin reduces total cholesterol (total-C), LDL-C and apo B in patients with homozygous and heterozygous FH, nonfamilial forms of hypercholesterolemia, and mixed dyslipidemia. Atorvastatin also reduces very low density lipoprotein cholesterol (VLDL-C) and triglyceride (TG) and increases high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) in patients with isolated hypertriglyceridemia. Atorvastatin reduces intermediate density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) in patients with dysbetalipoproteinemia. Fenofibrate, a member of the fibrate class, is a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor α (PPAR α). Through this mechanism, fenofibrate increases lipolysis and elimination of triglyceride-rich particles from plasma by activating lipoprotein lipase and reducing production of apoprotein C-III (an inhibitor of lipoprotein lipase activity). The resulting fall in triglycerides produces an alteration in the size and composition of LDL from small, dense particles (which are thought to be atherogenic due to their susceptibility to oxidation), to large buoyant particles. These larger particles have a greater affinity for cholesterol receptors and are catabolized rapidly. Activation of PPAR α also induces an increase in the synthesis of apoproteins A-I, A-IV and HDL-cholesterol. Fenofibrate also reduces serum uric acid levels in hyperuricemic and normal individuals by increasing the urinary excretion of uric acid.

Pharmacokinetic Properties
Atorvastatin
Absorption: Atorvastatin is rapidly absorbed after oral administration; maximum plasma concentrations occur within 1 to 2 hours. Extent of absorption increases in proportion to atorvastatin dose. The absolute bioavailability of atorvastatin is approximately 14% and the systemic availability of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitory activity is approximately 30%. The low systemic availability is attributed to pre-systemic clearance in gastrointestinal mucosa and/or hepatic first-pass metabolism. Although food decreases the rate and extent of drug absorption by approximately 25% and 9%, respectively, as assessed by C_{max} and AUC, LDL-C reduction is similar whether atorvastatin is given with or without food. Plasma atorvastatin concentrations are lower (approximately 30% for C_{max} and AUC) following evening drug administration compared with morning. However, LDL-C reduction is the same regardless of the time of day of drug administration [see *Pharmacology and Method of Administration*].

Distribution: Mean volume of distribution of atorvastatin is approximately 381 liters. Atorvastatin is ~98% bound to plasma proteins. A blood plasma ratio of approximately 1.0 indicates that atorvastatin is in red blood cells and in plasma. Based on observations in rats, atorvastatin is likely to be sequestered in human milk [see *Contraindications*].

Metabolism: Atorvastatin is extensively metabolized to ortho- and para-hydroxylated derivatives and various beta-oxidation products. In vitro inhibition of HMG-CoA reductase by ortho- and para-hydroxylated metabolites is equivalent to that of atorvastatin. Approximately 70% of circulating inhibitory activity for HMG-CoA reductase is attributed to active metabolites. In vitro studies suggest the importance of atorvastatin metabolism by cytochrome P450 3A4, consistently with increased plasma concentrations of atorvastatin in humans following co-administration with erythromycin, a known inhibitor of this isozyme [see *Drug Interactions*]. In animals, the ortho-hydroxy metabolite undergoes further glucuronidation.

Excretion: Atorvastatin and its metabolites are eliminated primarily in bile following hepatic and/or extra-hepatic metabolism; however, the drug does not appear to undergo enterohepatic recirculation. Mean plasma elimination half-life of atorvastatin in humans is approximately 14 hours, but the half-life of inhibitory activity for HMG-CoA reductase is 20 to 30 hours due to the contribution of active metabolites. Less than 2% of a dose of atorvastatin is recovered in urine following oral administration.

Gender: Plasma concentrations of atorvastatin in women differ from those in men (approximately 20% higher for C_{max} and 10% lower for AUC); however, there is no clinically significant difference in LDL-C reduction with atorvastatin between men and women.

Geriatric: Plasma concentrations of atorvastatin are higher (approximately 40% for C_{max} and 30% for AUC) in healthy elderly subjects (age ≥65 years) than in young adults. Clinical data suggest a greater degree of LDL-lowering at any dose of drug in the elderly patient population compared to younger adults.

Renal Impairment: Renal disease has no influence on the plasma concentrations or LDL-C reduction of atorvastatin; thus, dose adjustment in patients with renal dysfunction is not necessary [see *Pharmacology and Method of Administration; Special Warnings and Precautions for Use*].

Hemodialysis: While studies have not been conducted in patients with end-stage renal disease, hemodialysis is not expected to significantly enhance clearance of atorvastatin since the drug is extensively bound to plasma proteins.

Hepatic Impairment: In patients with chronic alcoholic liver disease, plasma concentrations of atorvastatin are markedly increased. C_{max} and AUC are each 4-fold greater in patients with Childs-Pugh A disease. C_{max} and AUC are approximately 16-fold and 11-fold increased, respectively, in patients with Childs-Pugh B disease [see *Contraindications*].

Fenofibrate
Clinical experience has been obtained with two different formulations of fenofibrate: a "microcrized" and "non-microcrized" formulation, which have been demonstrated to be bioequivalent. Comparisons of blood levels following oral administration of both formulations in healthy volunteers demonstrated that 67 mg of the "microcrized" formulation is bioequivalent to 100 mg of the "non-microcrized" formulation. The absolute bioavailability of fenofibrate cannot be determined as the compound is virtually insoluble in aqueous media suitable for injection. However, fenofibrate is well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. Following administration in healthy volunteers, approximately 60% of a single dose of fenofibrate appears in the urine, primarily as fenofibric acid and its glucuronide conjugate, and 25% was excreted in the feces. Peak plasma levels of fenofibric acid occur within 6 to 8 hours after administration. The absorption of fenofibrate is increased when administered with food. With fenofibrate tablets, the extent of absorption is increased by approximately 35% under fed as compared to fasting conditions. **Distribution:** In healthy volunteers, steady-state plasma levels of fenofibric acid were shown to be achieved within 5 days of dosing and did not demonstrate accumulation across time following multiple dose administration. Serum concentrations were approximately 100 mg/L in patients with normal renal and hepatic function. **Metabolism:** Following oral administration, fenofibrate is rapidly hydrolyzed by esterases to the active metabolite, fenofibric acid, no unchanged fenofibrate is detected in plasma. Fenofibric acid is primarily converted to fenofibric acid glucuronide and then excreted in urine. A small amount of fenofibric acid is reduced at the carbonyl moiety to a benzhydry metabolite which is in turn, conjugated with glucuronic acid and excreted in urine. **In vivo** metabolism data indicate that neither fenofibrate nor fenofibric acid undergoes oxidative metabolism (e.g., cytochrome P450) to a significant extent. **Excretion:** After administration, fenofibrate is mainly excreted in the urine in the form of metabolites primarily fenofibric acid and fenofibric acid glucuronide. After administration of radiolabeled fenofibrate, approximately 60% of the dose appeared in the urine and 25% was excreted in the feces. Fenofibric acid is eliminated with a half-life of 20 hours, allowing once daily administration in a clinical setting.

Race
The influence of race on the pharmacokinetics of fenofibrate has not been studied however fenofibrate is not metabolized by enzymes known for exhibiting inter-ethnic variability therefore, inter-ethnic pharmacokinetic differences are very unlikely.

Gender
No pharmacokinetic difference between males and females has been observed for fenofibrate.

Geriatrics
In elderly volunteers 77 - 87 years of age, the oral clearance of fenofibric acid following a single oral dose of fenofibrate was 1.2 L/h, which compares to 1.1 L/h in young adults. This indicates that a similar dosage regimen can be used in the elderly without increasing accumulation of the drug or metabolites.

Renal insufficiency
In a study in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min) the rate of clearance of fenofibric acid was greatly reduced, and the compound accumulated during chronic dosing. However, in patients having moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance of 50 to 80 mL/min), the oral clearance and the total volume of distribution of fenofibric acid are increased compared to healthy adults (2.1 L/h and 95 L, versus 1.1 L/h and 30 L, respectively). Therefore, the dosage of fenofibrate should be minimized in patients who have severe renal impairment, while no modification of dosage is required in patient having moderate renal impairment.

Hepatic insufficiency
No pharmacokinetic studies have been conducted in patients having hepatic insufficiency.

Pediatrics
Fenofibrate has not been investigated in adequate and well-controlled trials in pediatric patients.

Preclinical Safety Data
Atorvastatin
Cardiogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: In a 24-month study of male rats dosed with 10, 30 and 100 mg/kg/day, 2 rare tumors were found in muscle in high-dose females: in one, there was a rhabdomyosarcoma and, in another, there was a fibrosarcoma. This dose represents a plasma AUC₀₋₂₄ value of approximately 16 times the mean human plasma drug exposure after an 80 mg oral dose.

A 2-year carcinogenicity study in mice given 100, 200 and 400 mg/kg/day resulted in a significant increase in liver adenomas in high-dose males and liver carcinomas in high-dose females. These findings occurred at plasma AUC₀₋₂₄ values of approximately 6 times the mean human plasma drug exposure after an 80 mg oral dose. In vitro, atorvastatin was not mutagenic or clastogenic in the following tests with and without metabolic activation: the Ames test with *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Escherichia coli*, the HGPRT forward mutation assay in Chinese hamster lung cells, and the chromosomal aberration assay in Chinese hamster lung cells. Atorvastatin was negative in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test.

Studies in rats performed at doses up to 175 mg/kg (15 times the human exposure) produced no changes in fertility. There was aplasia and aspermia in the epididymis of 2 of 10 rats treated with 100 mg/kg/day of atorvastatin for 3 months (16 times the human AUC at the 80 mg dose); testis weights were significantly lower at 30 and 100 mg/kg and epididymal weight was lower at 100 mg/kg. Male rats given 100 mg/kg/day for 11 weeks prior to mating had decreased sperm motility, spermatozoal abnormalities, and increased paternal preimplantation loss. In a second-generation study, there were no changes in sperm parameters, or reproductive organ histopathology in dogs given doses of 10, 40, and 120 mg/kg for two years.

Fenofibrate
Cardiogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: In a 24-month study in rats (10, 45, and 200 mg/kg; 0.3, 1, and 6 times the maximum recommended human dose on the basis of mg/m² of surface area), the incidence of liver carcinoma was significantly increased at 6 times the maximum recommended human dose in males and females. A statistically significant increase in pancreatic carcinomas occurred in males at 1 and 6 times the maximum recommended human dose; there were also increase in pancreatic adenomas and benign testicular interstitial cell tumors at 6 times the maximum recommended human dose in a second-month study in male rats (dose levels of 10, 45, and 200 mg/kg; 0.3 and 2 times the maximum recommended human dose based on mg/m² surface area), there were significant increases in the incidence of pancreatic acinar adenomas in both sexes and increase in interstitial cell tumors of the testes at 2 times the maximum recommended human dose in males and females. In a second-generation study, a comparative carcinogenicity study was done in rats comparing three drugs: fenofibrate (10 and 70 mg/kg, 0.3 and 3.6 times the maximum recommended human dose), clofibrate (400 mg/kg; 1.6 times the human dose), and gemfibrozil (250 mg/kg; 1.7 times the human dose) (multiples based on mg/m² surface area). Pancreatic acinar adenomas were increased in males and females on fenofibrate; hepatocellular carcinoma and pancreatic acinar adenoma were increased in males and hepatic neoplastic nodules in females treated with clofibrate; hepatic neoplastic nodules were increased in males and females treated with gemfibrozil while testicular interstitial cell tumors were increased in males on all three drugs.

In a 21-month study in male rats at doses of 10, 45, and 200 mg/kg (approximately 0.2, 0.7, and 3 times the maximum recommended human dose on the basis of mg/m² surface area), there were statistically significant increase in liver carcinoma at 3 times the maximum recommended human dose in both males and females, in a second-generation study at the same doses, there was a significant increase in liver carcinoma in male mice, and liver adenoma in female mice at 3 times the maximum recommended human dose. Electron microscopy studies have demonstrated peroxisomal proliferation following fenofibrate administration to the rat. An adequate study to test for peroxisome proliferation in humans has not been done, but changes in peroxisome morphology and numbers have been observed in humans after treatment with other members of the fibrate class when liver biopsies were compared before and after treatment in the same individual. Fenofibrate has been demonstrated to be devoid of mutagenic potential in the following tests: Ames, mouse lymphoma, chromosomal aberrations and unscheduled DNA synthesis.

CLINICAL PARTICULARS
Therapeutic Indications
Atorvastatin

Therapy with lipid-altering agents should be only one component of multiple risk factor intervention in individuals at significantly increased risk for atherosclerotic vascular disease due to hypercholesterolemia. Drug therapy is recommended as an adjunct to diet when the response to a diet restricted in saturated fat and cholesterol and other nonpharmacologic measures alone has been inadequate. In patients with CHD or multiple risk factors for CHD, atorvastatin can be started simultaneously with

Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease
In adult patients without clinically evident coronary heart disease, but with multiple risk factors for coronary heart disease such as age, smoking, hypertension, low HDL-C, or a family history of early coronary heart disease, atorvastatin is indicated to:

- reduce the risk of myocardial infarction
- reduce the risk of stroke
- reduce the risk for revascularization procedures and angina

In patients with type 2 diabetes, and without clinically evident coronary heart disease, but with multiple risk factors for coronary heart disease such as age, smoking, hypertension, low HDL-C, or a family history of early coronary heart disease, atorvastatin is indicated to:

- reduce the risk of myocardial infarction
- reduce the risk of stroke

In patients with clinically evident coronary heart disease, atorvastatin is indicated to:

- reduce the risk of non-fatal myocardial infarction
- reduce the risk of fatal and non-fatal stroke
- reduce the risk for revascularization procedures
- reduce the risk of hospitalization for CHF
- reduce the risk of angina

Hyperlipidemia
Atorvastatin is indicated:

- As an adjunct to diet to reduce elevated total-C, LDL-C, apo B, and TG levels and to increase HDL-C in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and nonfamilial) and mixed dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Types IIa and IIb).
- As an adjunct to diet for the treatment of patients with elevated serum TG levels (Fredrickson Type IV);
- For the treatment of patients with primary dysbetalipoproteinemia (Fredrickson type III) who do not respond adequately to diet;

- To reduce total-C and LDL-C in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (e.g., LDL apheresis) or if such treatments are unavailable;
- As an adjunct to diet to reduce total-C, LDL-C, and apo B levels in boys and postmenarcheal girls, 10 to 17 years of age, with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia if after an adequate trial of diet therapy the following findings are present:
 - a LDL-C remains ≥190 mg/dL or
 - a LDL-C remains ≥160 mg/dL and;
 - there is a positive family history of premature cardiovascular disease or
 - two or more other CVD risk factors are present in the pediatric patient

Limitations of Use
Atorvastatin has not been studied in conditions where the major lipoprotein abnormality is elevation of chylomicrons (Fredrickson Types I and V).

Fenofibrate
Fenofibrate is indicated as adjunctive therapy to diet to reduce elevated LDL-C, Total-C, Triglycerides and Apo B, and to increase HDL-C in adult patients with primary hypercholesterolemia or mixed dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Types IIa and IIb). Fenofibrate is also indicated as adjunctive therapy to the placebo group. Some baseline characteristics, including hemoglobin and lactuaric stroke on study entry, were associated with a higher incidence of hemorrhagic stroke in the atorvastatin group [see *Undesirable Effects*].

Treatment of Hypertriglyceridemia
Fenofibrate is also indicated as adjunctive therapy to diet for treatment of adult patients with hypertriglyceridemia (Fredrickson Types IV and V hyperlipidemia). Improving glycemic control in patients with diabetes showing fasting chylomicronemia will usually reduce fasting triglycerides and eliminate chylomicronemia thereby obviating the need for fenofibrate, as assessed by C_{max} and AUC. LDL-C reduction levels of severely triglyceridemic (e.g. >200 mg/dL) patients, at risk of developing pancreatitis. The effect of fenofibrate therapy on reducing this risk has not been adequately studied. Drug therapy is not indicated for patients with type I hyperlipoproteinemia, who have elevations of chylomicrons and chylomicron remnants, or type III hyperlipoproteinemia. Inspection of plasma refrigerated for 14 hours is helpful in distinguishing Types I, IV and V hyperlipoproteinemias.

The treatment trial for dyslipidemia is dietary therapy specific for the type of lipoprotein abnormality. Excess body weight and abnormal renal function are important factors in hypertriglyceridemia and should be addressed as part of drug therapy. Physical exercise can be an important ancillary measure. Diseases contributory to hyperlipidemia, such as hypothyroidism or diabetes mellitus should be looked for and adequately treated. Estrogen therapy, thiatic diuretics and other diabetics, are sometimes associated with massive rises in plasma triglycerides, especially in subjects with familial hypertriglyceridemia. In such cases, discontinuation of the specific etiologic agent may obviate the need for specific drug therapy of hypertriglyceridemia.

The use of drugs should be considered only when reasonable attempts have been made to obtain satisfactory results with non-drug methods. If the decision is made to use drugs, the patient should be instructed that this does not reduce the importance of adhering to diet. [See *Special Warnings and Precautions for Use*].

Pharmacology and Method of Administration
Atorvastatin
Hyperlipidemia (Heterozygous Familial and Nonfamilial) and Mixed Dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Types IIa and IIb)
The recommended starting dose of atorvastatin is 10 to 20 mg once daily. Patients who require a large reduction in LDL-C, or who are at high risk of CHD, may be started at 40 mg once daily. The dosage range of atorvastatin is 10 to 80 mg once daily. Atorvastatin can be administered as a single dose at any time of the day, with or without food. The starting dose and maintenance doses of atorvastatin should be individualized according to patient characteristics such as goal of therapy and response. After initial and/or upon titration of atorvastatin, lipid levels should be analyzed within 2 to 4 weeks and dosage adjusted accordingly.

Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia in Pediatric Patients (10-17 years of age)
The recommended starting dose of atorvastatin is 10 mg/day; the maximum recommended dose is 20 mg/day (doses greater than 20 mg have not been studied in this patient population). Doses should be individualized according to the recommended goal of therapy [see *Pharmacological Particulars*, and *Therapeutic Indications*]. Adjustments should be made at intervals of 4 weeks or more.

Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia
The dosage of atorvastatin in patients with homozygous FH is 10 to 80 mg daily. Atorvastatin should be used as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering therapies (e.g., LDL apheresis) in these patients or if such treatments are unavailable.

Concomitant Lipid-Lowering Therapy
Atorvastatin may be used with bile acid resins. The combination of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) and fibrates should generally be used with caution [see *Special Warnings and Precautions for Use*, and *Drug Interactions*].

Dosage in Patients With Renal Impairment
Renal disease does not affect the plasma concentrations nor LDL-C reduction of atorvastatin; thus, dosage adjustment in patients with renal impairment is not necessary [see *Special Warnings and Precautions for Use*, *Pharmacological Particulars* and *Pharmacokinetics*].

Dosage in Patients Taking Cyclosporine, Clarithromycin, Itraconazole, or Certain Protease Inhibitors
In patients taking cyclosporine or the HIV protease inhibitors (tipranavir plus ritonavir) or the hepatitis C protease inhibitor telaprevir, therapy with atorvastatin should be avoided. In patients with HIV taking lopinavir plus ritonavir, caution should be used when prescribing atorvastatin and the lowest dose necessary employed. In patients taking clarithromycin, itraconazole, or in patients with HIV taking a combination of saquinavir plus ritonavir, darunavir plus ritonavir, or zalcitabine plus zalcitabine, or fosamprenavir plus ritonavir, therapy with atorvastatin should be avoided. In patients with HIV, clinical assessment is recommended to ensure that the lowest dose necessary of atorvastatin is employed. In patients with HIV taking nevirapine, therapy with atorvastatin should be limited to 40 mg, and appropriate clinical assessment is recommended to ensure that the lowest dose necessary of atorvastatin is employed [see *Special Warnings and Precautions and Drug Interactions*].

Fenofibrate
Fenofibrate should be placed on an appropriate lipid-lowering diet before receiving fenofibrate, and should continue this diet during treatment with fenofibrate. Fenofibrate tablets should be given with meals, thereby optimizing the bioavailability of the medication. In the treatment of adult patients with primary hypercholesterolemia or mixed hyperlipidemia, the initial dose of fenofibrate is 200 mg per day. For adult patients with hypertriglyceridemia, the initial dose is 67 to 200 mg per day. Dosage should be individualized according to patient response, and should be adjusted if necessary following repeat lipid determinations at 4 to 8 week intervals. The maximum dose is 200 mg per day. Treatment with fenofibrate should be initiated at a dose of 67 mg/day in patients having impaired renal function, and should be adjusted if necessary. The relationship of fenofibrate on renal function and lipid levels is to be studied. In the elderly, the initial dose should likewise be limited to 67 mg/day. Lipid levels should be monitored periodically and consideration should be given to reducing the dosage of fenofibrate if lipid levels fall significantly below the targeted range.

Contraindications
Atorvastatin

- Active liver disease, which may include unexplained persistent elevations in hepatic transaminase levels
 - Hypersensitivity to any component of this medication
 - Pregnancy
- Patients are pregnant or may become pregnant. Atorvastatin may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Serum cholesterol and triglycerides increase during normal pregnancy, and cholesterol or cholesterol derivatives are essential for fetal development. Atherosclerosis is a chronic process and discontinuation of lipid-lowering drugs during pregnancy should have little or no adverse effect on the outcome of long-term therapy of primary hypercholesterolemia. In patients with atorvastatin and well-controlled studies of atorvastatin use during pregnancy, however in rare reports, congenital anomalies were observed following intrauterine exposure to statins. In rat and rabbit animal reproduction studies, atorvastatin revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. ATORVASTATIN SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED TO WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE ONLY WHEN SUCH PATIENTS ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO CONCEIVE AND HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS. If the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, atorvastatin should be discontinued immediately and the patient apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus [see *Pharmacokinetic Properties*].

- Nursing mothers
- It is not known whether atorvastatin is excreted into human milk; however a small amount of another drug in this class does pass into breast milk. Because statins have the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, women who require atorvastatin treatment should not breastfeed their infants [see *Pharmacokinetic Properties*].

Fenofibrate
Fenofibrate is contraindicated in the following conditions:

- Patients who exhibit hypersensitivity to fenofibrate;
- Patients with hepatic or severe renal dysfunction, including primary biliary cirrhosis, and patients with unexplained persistent liver function abnormality.
- Patients with preexisting gallbladder disease [see *Special Warnings and Precautions for Use*].

Special Warnings and Precautions for Use
Atorvastatin

Skeletal Muscle Effects
Rare cases of rhabdomyolysis with acute renal failure secondary to myoglobinuria have been reported with atorvastatin and with other drugs in this class. A history of renal impairment may be a risk factor for the development of rhabdomyolysis. Such patients merit closer monitoring for skeletal muscle effects. Atorvastatin, like other statins, occasionally causes myopathy, defined as muscle aches or muscle weakness in conjunction with increases in creatine phosphokinase (CPK) values >10 times ULN. The concomitant use of higher doses of atorvastatin with strong inhibitors of CYP 3A4 can lead to increases in plasma concentrations of atorvastatin. The extent of interaction and potentiation of effects depends on the variability of effect on CYP 3A4.

• Clarithromycin: Atorvastatin AUC was significantly increased with concomitant administration of atorvastatin 40 mg with clarithromycin 500 mg daily for 14 days compared to that with atorvastatin alone [see *Pharmacokinetic Particulars*]. Therefore, in patients taking clarithromycin, caution should be used when the atorvastatin dose exceeds 20 mg [see *Special Warnings and Precautions for Use and Pharmacology and Method of Administration*].

• Combination of Protease Inhibitors: Atorvastatin AUC was significantly increased with concomitant administration of atorvastatin 40 mg with several combinations of HIV protease inhibitors, as well as with the hepatitis C protease inhibitor telaprevir, compared to that of atorvastatin alone [see *Pharmacological Particulars*]. Therefore, in patients taking the HIV protease inhibitors tipranavir plus ritonavir, or the hepatitis C protease inhibitor telaprevir, concomitant use of atorvastatin should be avoided. In patients taking the HIV protease inhibitor lopinavir plus ritonavir, caution should be used when prescribing atorvastatin and the lowest dose necessary should be used. In patients taking the HIV protease inhibitors saquinavir plus ritonavir, or darunavir plus ritonavir, fosamprenavir plus ritonavir, or fosamprenavir plus ritonavir, azole antifungals, or lipid-modifying doses of niacin should carefully weigh the potential benefits and risks and should carefully monitor patients for any signs or symptoms of muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and during any periods of upward dosage titration of either drug. Lower starting and maintenance doses of atorvastatin should be considered when taken concomitantly with the aforementioned drugs [see *Drug Interactions*]. Periodic creatine phosphokinase (CPK) determinations should be considered in such situations, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe myopathy.

Prescribing recommendations for interacting agents are summarized in Table 1 [see also *Pharmacology and Method of Administration, Drug Interactions, Pharmacological Particulars*]. Cases of myopathy, including rhabdomyolysis have been reported with atorvastatin co-administered with colchicine, and caution should be exercised when prescribing atorvastatin with colchicine [see *Drug Interactions*].

The following table summarizes the potential for drug-drug interactions in any patient with an elevated or serious condition suggestive of a myopathy or having a risk factor predisposing to the development of renal failure secondary to rhabdomyolysis (e.g., severe acute infection, hypotension, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine and electrolyte disorders, and concurrent use of medications which interfere with renal function).

Table 1. Drug interactions associated with increased risk of myopathy/rhabdomyolysis		
Interacting agents	Prescribing recommendations	
Cyclosporine, HIV protease inhibitors (tipranavir plus ritonavir), hepatitis C protease inhibitor (telaprevir)	Avoid atorvastatin	
HIV protease inhibitor (lopinavir plus ritonavir)	Use with caution and lowest dose necessary	
Clarithromycin, itraconazole, HIV protease inhibitors (saquinavir plus ritonavir*) darunavir plus ritonavir, fosamprenavir, fosamprenavir plus ritonavir)	Do not exceed 20 mg atorvastatin daily	
HIV protease inhibitors (neftravir)	Do not exceed 40 mg atorvastatin daily	
*Use with caution and with the lowest dose necessary.		

Risk of Hyperglycemia:
Increase in blood sugar levels (hyperglycemia) have been reported with atorvastatin.

Liver Dysfunction:
HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, like some other lipid-lowering therapies, have been associated with biochemical abnormalities of liver function. Persistent elevations (>3 times the upper limit of normal [ULN]) occurring on 2 or more transaminases in serum transaminases occurred in 0.7% of patients who received atorvastatin in clinical trials. The incidence of these abnormalities was 0.2%, 0.2%, 0.6%, and 2.3% for 10, 20, 40, and 80 mg, respectively.

One patient in clinical trials developed jaundice. Increases in liver function tests (LFT) in other patients were not associated with jaundice or other clinical signs or symptoms. Upon dose reduction, drug interruption, or discontinuation, transaminase levels returned to or near pretreatment levels without sequelae. Eighteen of 30 patients with persistent LFT elevations continued treatment with a reduced dose of atorvastatin. It is recommended that liver function tests be performed prior to and at 12 weeks following both the initiation of therapy and any elevation of dose, and periodically (e.g., semi annually) thereafter. Liver enzyme changes generally occur in the first 3 months of treatment with atorvastatin.

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Patients who develop increased transaminase levels should be monitored until the abnormalities resolve. Should an increase in ALT or AST of ≥3 times ULN persist, reduction of dose and withdrawal of atorvastatin is recommended. Atorvastatin should be used with caution in patients who consume substantial quantities of alcohol and/or have a history of liver disease. Active liver disease or unexplained persistent transaminase elevations are contraindications to the use of atorvastatin.

Endocrine Function
Increases in HbA1c and fasting serum glucose levels have been reported with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, including atorvastatin. Statins interfere with cholesterol synthesis and theoretically might blunt adrenal and/or gonadal steroid production. Clinical studies have shown that atorvastatin does not reduce basal plasma cortisol concentration or impair adrenal reserve. The effects of statins on male fertility have not been studied in adequate numbers of patients. The effects, if any, on the pituitary-gonadal axis in premenopausal women are unknown. Caution should be exercised if a statin is administered concurrently with drugs that may decrease the levels or activity of endogenous steroid hormones, such as ketoconazole, spiroinolactone, and cimetidine.

KCS Toxicity
Brain hemorrhage was seen in a female dog treated for 3 months at 120 mg/kg/day. Brain hemorrhage and optic nerve vacuolation were seen in another female dog that was sacrificed in moribund condition after 11 weeks of escalating doses up to 280 mg/kg/day. The 120 mg/kg dose resulted in a systemic exposure approximately 16 times the human plasma area-under-the-curve (AUC₀₋₂₄) based on the maximum human dose of 80 mg/day. A single tonic convulsion was seen in each of 2 male dogs (one treated at 10 mg/kg/day and one at 120 mg/kg/day) in a 2-year study. No CNS lesions have been observed in mice after chronic treatment for up to 2 years at doses up to 400 mg/kg/day or in rats at doses up to 100 mg/kg/day. These doses were 1 to 11 times human and 8 to 16 times (at the human AUC₀₋₂₄) based on the maximum recommended human dose of 80 mg/day.

CNS vascular lesions, characterized by perivascular hemorrhages, edema, and mononuclear cell infiltration of perivascular spaces, have been observed in some members of this class. A chemically similar drug in this class produced optic nerve degeneration (Wallerian degeneration of retinogeniculate fibers) in clinically normal dogs in a dose-dependent fashion at a dose that produced plasma drug levels about 30 times higher than the mean drug level in humans taking the highest recommended dose.

Use in Patients with Recent Stroke or TIA
In a post-hoc analysis of the Stroke Prevention by Aggressive Reduction in Cholesterol Levels (SPARC) study where atorvastatin 80 mg vs. placebo was administered in 4,371 subjects without CHD who had a stroke or TIA within the preceding 6 months, a higher incidence of hemorrhagic stroke was seen in the atorvastatin 80 mg group compared to placebo. The incidence of fatal hemorrhagic stroke was similar across treatment groups. The incidence of nonfatal hemorrhagic stroke was slightly higher in the atorvastatin group compared to placebo. Some baseline characteristics, including hemoglobin and lactuaric stroke on study entry, were associated with a higher incidence of hemorrhagic stroke in the atorvastatin group [see *Undesirable Effects*].

Fenofibrate
Liver Function
Fenofibrate at doses equivalent to 107 mg to 160 mg fenofibrate per day has been associated with increases in serum transaminases (AST [SGOT] or ALT [SGPT]). The incidence of increases in transaminases related to fenofibrate therapy appear to be dose related. Hepatocellular, chronic acute and cholestatic hepatitis associated with fenofibrate therapy have been reported after exposures of weeks to several years. In extremely rare cases, liver failure has been reported in association with chronic acute hepatitis. Regular periodic monitoring of liver function, including serum ALT (SGPT) should be performed for the duration of therapy with fenofibrate, and therapy discontinued if enzyme levels persist above three times the normal limit.

Cholelithiasis
Fenofibrate, like clofibrate and gemfibrozil, may increase cholesterol excretion into the bile, leading to cholelithiasis. If cholelithiasis is suspected, gallbladder studies are indicated. In patients with gallstones, fenofibrate therapy should be discontinued if gallstones are found.

Concomitant Oral Anticoagulants
Caution should be exercised when anticoagulants are given in conjunction with fenofibrate because of the potentiation of coumarin-type anticoagulants in prolonging the prothrombin time/INR. The dosage of the anticoagulant should be reduced to maintain the prothrombin time/INR at the desired level to prevent bleeding complications. Frequent prothrombin time/INR determinations are advisable until it has been definitely determined that the prothrombin time/INR has stabilized.

Concomitant HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors
The combined use of fenofibrate and HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors should be avoided unless the benefit of further alterations in lipid levels is likely to outweigh the increased risk of this drug combination. The combined use of fibric acid derivatives and HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors has been associated, in the absence of a