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Wolters Kluwer

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Pravastatin: Patient drug information

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(For additional information [see "Pravastatin: Drug information"](#) and [see "Pravastatin: Pediatric drug information"](#))

Brand Names: US

Pravachol [DSC]

Brand Names: Canada

ACH-Pravastatin; ACT Pravastatin [DSC]; AG-Pravastatin; APO-Pravastatin; AURO-Pravastatin; BIO-Pravastatin; DOM-Pravastatin; JAMP-Pravastatin; M-Pravastatin; MAR-Pravastatin; MINT-Pravastatin; MYLAN-Pravastatin [DSC]; PMS-Pravastatin; Pravachol [DSC]; Priva-Pravastatin; RIVA-Pravastatin [DSC]; SANDOZ Pravastatin; TARO-Pravastatin; TEVA-Pravastatin

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to lower bad cholesterol (LDL), lower triglycerides, and raise good cholesterol (HDL).
- It is used to slow the progress of heart disease.
- It is used to lower the chance of heart attack, stroke, and death in some people.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have liver disease or raised liver enzymes.
- If you are taking gemfibrozil.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Follow the diet and workout plan that your doctor told you about.
- Do not take more than what your doctor told you to take. Taking more than you are told may raise your chance of very bad side effects.
- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.
- If you take cholestyramine or colestipol, take them at least 4 hours before or 1 hour after this drug.
- Avoid or limit drinking alcohol to less than 3 drinks a day. Drinking too much alcohol may raise your chance of liver disease.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. Women must use birth control while taking this drug. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help

right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Chest pain.
- Not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed.
- This drug may cause muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness. The risk may be raised if you have low thyroid function or kidney problems. It may also be raised if you take this drug with certain other drugs, or if you are 65 or older. Sometimes, a severe muscle problem may lead to kidney problems. Rarely, deaths have happened. Call your doctor right away if you have abnormal muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness (with or without fever or feeling out of sorts). Call your doctor right away if muscle problems last after your doctor has told you to stop taking this drug.
- Liver problems have happened with drugs like this one. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Headache.
- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Cough.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- Take with or without food.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

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

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store at room temperature protected from light. Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep lid tightly closed.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it

happened.

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