PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Fluvastatin

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

## Brand Names: US

Lescol XL

## Brand Names: Canada

TEVA-Fluvastatin

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to lower bad cholesterol and triglycerides.
- It is used to slow the progress of heart disease and lower the risk of needing certain heart procedures.

## What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child has liver disease or raised liver enzymes.
- If your child is taking the following drugs: Cyclosporine, fluconazole, or gemfibrozil.

### If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

- Do not give this drug to your child during pregnancy.
- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug.

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

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

## What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- If your child has high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your child's blood sugar closely.
- Have your child's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- Have your child follow the diet and exercise plan your child's doctor told you about.
- Do not give your child more of this drug than what the doctor told you to give. Giving more of this drug than you are told may raise the chance of severe side effects.
- If your child takes colesevelam, colestipol, or cholestyramine, talk with the pharmacist about how to give them with this drug.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.

### If your child is or may be sexually active:

- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. Your child must use birth control while taking this drug. If your child gets pregnant, call your child's doctor right away.

## What are some side effects that I need to call my child's 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 child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has 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.
- Change in balance.
- Memory problems or loss.
- Feeling confused.
- Not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed.
- Pain when passing urine.
- This drug may cause muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness. The risk may be raised if your child has low thyroid function, kidney problems, or takes this drug with certain other drugs. Sometimes, a severe muscle problem may happen that may lead to kidney problems. Rarely, deaths have happened. Call the doctor right away if your child has abnormal muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness (with or without fever or feeling out of sorts). Call the doctor right away if muscle problems last after the doctor has told you to stop giving this drug.
- Liver problems have happened with drugs like this one. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Call the doctor right away if your child has signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, 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 child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Headache.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Upset stomach.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Flu-like signs.

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

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

## How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

### All products:

- Give this drug at the same time of day.
- Keep giving this drug to your child as you have been told by your child's doctor or other health care provider, even if your child feels well.
- Give this drug with or without food.
- If your child has trouble swallowing, talk with the doctor.

### Capsules:

- Do not open the capsules.
- If your child takes more than 1 capsule per dose, be sure your child swallows only 1 capsule at a time.

### Extended-release tablets:

- Have your child swallow whole with a drink of water.
- Do not let your child chew, break, or crush.

## What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it has been 12 hours or more since the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not give 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 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 child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's

drug to your child.

- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child's 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.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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