

Patient's Name: John Q. Patient
Healthcare Provider's Name: Dr. Smith
Department: Cardiology
Phone: 617-555-1212
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Notes: **Nurses can write personalized notes to patients here.**

Pravastatin

[En Español \(Spanish Version\)](#)

(pra' va stat in)

[WHY is this medicine prescribed?](#)

Pravastatin is used together with diet, weight-loss, and exercise to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke and to decrease the chance that heart surgery will be needed in people who have heart disease or who are at risk of developing heart disease. Pravastatin is also used to reduce the amount of fatty substances such as low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol ('bad cholesterol') and triglycerides in the blood and to increase the amount of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol ('good cholesterol') in the blood. Pravastatin is in a class of medications called HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins). It works by slowing the production of cholesterol in the body to decrease the amount of cholesterol that may build up on the walls of the arteries and block blood flow to the heart, brain, and other parts of the body.

Accumulation of cholesterol and fats along the walls of your arteries (a process known as atherosclerosis) decreases blood flow and, therefore, the oxygen supply to your heart, brain, and other parts of your body. Lowering your blood level of cholesterol and fats with pravastatin has been shown to prevent heart disease, angina (chest pain), strokes, and heart attacks.

[HOW should this medicine be used?](#)

Pravastatin comes as a tablet to take by mouth. It is usually taken once a day with or without food. Take pravastatin at around the same time every day. Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully, and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Take pravastatin exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

Your doctor may start you on a low dose of pravastatin and gradually increase your dose, not more than once every 4 weeks.

Continue to take pravastatin even if you feel well. Do not stop taking pravastatin without talking to your doctor.

[Are there OTHER USES for this medicine?](#)

This medication may be prescribed for other uses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

[What SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS should I follow?](#)

Before taking pravastatin,

- tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to pravastatin, any other medications, or any of the ingredients in pravastatin tablets. Ask your pharmacist for a list of the ingredients.
- tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, nutritional supplements, and herbal products you are taking or plan to take. Be sure to mention any of the following: antacids; antifungals such as fluconazole (Diflucan) and ketoconazole (Nizoral); boceprevir (Victrelis); cimetidine (Tagamet); clarithromycin (Biaxin); colchicine (Colcrys); cyclosporine (Neoral, Sandimmune); digoxin (Lanoxin); diltiazem (Cardizem, Cartia, Taztia, Tiazac); erythromycin (E.E.S., E-Mycin, Erythrocin); other cholesterol-lowering medications such as fenofibrate (Tricor), gemfibrozil (Lopid), and niacin (nicotinic acid, Niacor, Niaspan); ritonavir (Norvir) taken with darunavir (Prezista); spironolactone (Aldactone); verapamil (Calan, Covera, Verelan); and warfarin (Coumadin). Your doctor may need to change the doses of your medications or monitor you carefully for side effects. Other medications may also interact with pravastatin, so be sure to tell your doctor about all the medications you are taking, even those that do not appear on this list.
- if you are taking cholestyramine (Questran) or colestipol (Colestid), take them 4 hours before or 1 hour after pravastatin.
- tell your doctor if you have liver disease. Your doctor will order laboratory tests to see how well your liver is working even if you do not think you have liver disease. Your doctor will probably tell you not to take pravastatin if you have liver disease or if the tests show that you may be developing liver disease.
- tell your doctor if you drink more than two alcoholic beverages per day, if you are 65 years of age or older, if you have ever had liver disease or if you have or have ever had low blood pressure, muscle aches or weakness, seizures, or thyroid or kidney disease.
- tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. You should not become pregnant while you are taking pravastatin. Talk to your doctor about birth control methods that you can use during your treatment. If you become pregnant while taking pravastatin, stop taking pravastatin and call your doctor immediately. Pravastatin may harm the fetus.
- do not breastfeed while you are taking this medication.
- if you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are taking pravastatin. If you are hospitalized due to serious injury or infection, tell the doctor who treats you that you are taking pravastatin.
- ask your doctor about the safe use of alcoholic beverages while you are taking pravastatin. Alcohol can increase the risk of serious side effects.

[What SPECIAL DIETARY instructions should I follow?](#)

Eat a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet. Be sure to follow all exercise and dietary recommendations made by your doctor or dietitian. You can also visit the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) website for additional dietary information at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/chol/chol_tlc.pdf> .

[What should I do IF I FORGET to take a dose?](#)

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue the regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

What SIDE EFFECTS can this medicine cause?

Pravastatin may cause side effects. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- heartburn
- headache
- memory loss or forgetfulness
- confusion

Some side effects can be serious. If you experience any of the following side effects, call your doctor immediately or get emergency medical help:

- muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness
- lack of energy
- fever
 - yellowing of the skin or eyes
 - pain in the upper right part of the stomach
- nausea
 - extreme tiredness
 - weakness
 - unusual bleeding or bruising
 - dark colored urine
 - loss of appetite
 - flu-like symptoms
- rash
- hives
- itching
 - difficulty breathing or swallowing
 - swelling of the face, throat, tongue, lips, eyes, hands, feet, ankles, or lower legs
 - hoarseness

Pravastatin may cause other side effects. Call your doctor if you have any unusual problems while taking this medication.

If you experience a serious side effect, you or your doctor may send a report to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program online [at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch>] or by phone [1-800-332-1088].

What should I know about STORAGE and DISPOSAL of this medication?

Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom). Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed. Talk to your pharmacist about the proper disposal of your medication.

[What should I do in case of OVERDOSE?](#)

In case of overdose, call your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. If the victim has collapsed or is not breathing, call local emergency services at 911.

[What OTHER INFORMATION should I know?](#)

Keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory. Your doctor may order lab tests during your treatment, especially if you develop symptoms of liver damage.

Before having any laboratory test, tell your doctor and the laboratory personnel that you are taking pravastatin.

Do not let anyone else take your medication. Ask your pharmacist any questions you have about refilling your prescription.

It is important for you to keep a written list of all of the prescription and nonprescription (over-the-counter) medicines you are taking, as well as any products such as vitamins, minerals, or other dietary supplements. You should bring this list with you each time you visit a doctor or if you are admitted to a hospital. It is also important information to carry with you in case of emergencies.

Brand Names

- Pravachol®
- Also available generically

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