

PACKAGE LEAFLET: Information for the user

EZEVAST 10 mg/ 10 mg, tabletten
EZEVAST 10 mg/ 20 mg, tabletten
EZEVAST 10 mg/ 40 mg, tabletten
EZEVAST 10 mg/ 80 mg, tabletten

ezetimibe and atorvastatin

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Ezevast is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Ezevast
3. How to take Ezevast
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Ezevast
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Ezevast is and what it is used for

Ezevast is a medicine to lower increased levels of cholesterol. Ezevast contains ezetimibe and atorvastatin.

Ezevast is used in adults to lower levels of total cholesterol, “bad” cholesterol (LDL cholesterol), and fatty substances called triglycerides in the blood. In addition, Ezevast raises levels of “good” cholesterol (HDL cholesterol).

Ezevast works to reduce your cholesterol in two ways. It reduces the cholesterol absorbed in your digestive tract, as well as the cholesterol your body makes by itself.

Cholesterol is one of several fatty substances found in the bloodstream. Your total cholesterol is made up mainly of LDL and HDL cholesterol.

LDL cholesterol is often called “bad” cholesterol because it can build up in the walls of your arteries forming plaque. Eventually this plaque build-up can lead to a narrowing of the arteries. This narrowing can slow or block blood flow to vital organs such as the heart and brain. This blocking of blood flow can result in a heart attack or stroke.

HDL cholesterol is often called “good” cholesterol because it helps keep the bad cholesterol from building up in the arteries and protects against heart disease.

Triglycerides are another form of fat in your blood that may increase your risk for heart disease.

Ezevast is used for patients who cannot control their cholesterol levels by diet alone. You should stay on a cholesterol-lowering diet while taking this medicine.

Your doctor may prescribe Ezevast if you are already taking both atorvastatin and ezetimibe at the same dose level.

Ezevast does not help you lose weight.

2. What you need to know before you take Ezevast

Do not take Ezevast

- if you are allergic to atorvastatin, ezetimibe or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you have or have ever had a disease that affects the liver
- if you have had any unexplained abnormal blood tests for liver function
- if you are a woman able to have children and are not using reliable contraception
- if you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or are breast-feeding
- if you use the combination of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir in the treatment of hepatitis C

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Ezevast

- if you have had a previous stroke with bleeding into the brain, or have small pockets of fluid in the brain from previous strokes
- if you have kidney problems
- if you have an under-active thyroid gland (hypothyroidism)
- if you have had repeated or unexplained muscle aches or pains, a personal history or family history of muscle problems
- if you have had previous muscular problems during treatment with other lipid-lowering medicines (*e.g.*, other “statin” or fibrate” medicines)
- if you have or have had myasthenia (a disease with general muscle weakness including in some cases muscles used when breathing), or ocular myasthenia (a disease causing eye muscle weakness) as statins may sometimes aggravate the condition or lead to the occurrence of myasthenia (see section 4)
- if you are taking or have taken in the last 7 days a medicine called fusidic acid, (a medicine for bacterial infection) orally or by injection. The combination of fusidic acid and Atorvastatin/Ezetimibe containing medicines can lead to serious muscle problems (rhabdomyolysis)
- if you regularly drink a large amount of alcohol
- if you have a history of liver disease
- if you are older than 70 years

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking Ezevast. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious, including muscle breakdown resulting in kidney damage.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Ezevast

- if you have severe respiratory failure.

If any of these apply to you (or you are not sure), talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Ezevast because your doctor will need to carry out a blood test before and possible during your treatment to predict your risk of muscle-related side effects. The risk of muscle-related side effects, *e.g.*, rhabdomyolysis (breakdown of damaged skeletal muscle), is known to increase when certain medicines are taken at the same time (see section 2 “*Other medicines and Ezevast*”).

While you are on this medicine your doctor will monitor you closely if you have diabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes. You are likely to be at risk of developing diabetes if you have high levels of sugars and fats in your blood, are overweight and have high blood pressure.

Tell your doctor about all medical conditions including allergies.

Children and adolescents

Ezevast is not recommended for children and adolescents.

Other medicines and Ezevast

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines.

Fibrates (medicines for lowering cholesterol) should be avoided while taking Ezevast.

There are some medicines that may change the effect of Ezevast or the effect of other medicines may be changed by Ezevast (see section 3). This type of interaction could make one or both of the medicines less effective. Alternatively it could increase the risk or severity of side effects, including the important muscle wasting condition known as “rhabdomyolysis” described in section 4:

- ciclosporin (a medicine often used in organ transplant patients)
- erythromycin, clarithromycin, telithromycin, fusidic acid, rifampicin (medicines for bacterial infections)
- ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, fluconazole, posaconazole (medicines for fungal infections)
- gemfibrozil, other fibrates, nicotinic acid, derivatives, colestipol, colestyramine (medicines for regulating lipid levels)
- some calcium channel blockers used for angina or high blood pressure, *e.g.*, amlodipine, diltiazem
- digoxin, verapamil, amiodarone (medicines to regulate your heart rhythm)
- medicines used in the treatment of HIV, *e.g.*, ritonavir, lopinavir, atazanavir, indinavir, darunavir, the combination of tipranavir/ritonavir, *etc.* (medicines for AIDS)
- some medicines used in the treatment of hepatitis C, *e.g.*, telaprevir, boceprevir and the combination of elbasvir, grazoprevir
- if you need to take oral fusidic acid to treat a bacterial infection you will need to temporarily stop taking this medicine. Your doctor will tell you when it is safe to restart Ezevast. Taking Ezevast with fusidic acid may rarely lead to muscle weakness, tenderness or pain (rhabdomyolysis). See more information regarding rhabdomyolysis in section 4.

- Other medicines known to interact with the combination product
 - oral contraceptives (medicines for preventing pregnancy)
 - stiripentol (an anticonvulsant medicine for epilepsy)
 - cimetidine (a medicine used for heartburn and peptic ulcers)
 - phenazone (a painkiller)
 - antacids (indigestion products containing aluminium or magnesium)
 - warfarin, phenprocoumon, acenocoumarol or fluindione (medicines to prevent blood clots)
 - colchicine (used to treat gout)
 - St John’s Wort (a medicine to treat depression)

Ezevast with food, drink and alcohol

See section 3 for instructions on how to take Ezevast. Please note the following:

Grapefruit juice

Do not take more than one or two small glasses of grapefruit juice per day because large quantities of grapefruit juice can change the effects of the combination product.

Alcohol

Avoid drinking too much alcohol while taking this medicine. See section 2 “*Warnings and precautions*” for details.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

Do not take Ezevast if you are pregnant, are trying to become pregnant or think you may be pregnant.

Do not take Ezevast if you are able to become pregnant unless you use reliable contraceptive measures. If you get pregnant while taking Ezevast, stop taking it immediately and tell your doctor.

Do not take Ezevast if you are breast-feeding.

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Ezevast is not expected to interfere with your ability to drive or to use machinery. However, it should be taken into account that some people may get dizzy after taking Ezevast. If you feel dizzy after taking this medicine do not drive or use machines.

Ezevast contains lactose

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

Ezevast contains sodium

Ezevast contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. How to take Ezevast

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Your doctor will determine the appropriate tablet strength for you, depending on your current treatment and your personal risk status. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- Before starting Ezevast, you should be on a diet to lower your cholesterol
- You should stay on this cholesterol-lowering diet while taking Ezevast

How much to take

The recommended dose is one Ezevast tablet once a day preferably always at the same time. The tablet should be swallowed with a sufficient amount of fluid (*e.g.*, one glass of water).

When to take

Take Ezevast at any time of the day. You can take it with or without food.

If your doctor has prescribed Ezevast along with colestyramine or any other bile acid sequestrant (medicines for lowering cholesterol), you should take Ezevast at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after taking the bile acid sequestrant.

If you take more Ezevast than you should

Please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

If you forget to take Ezevast

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet. Just take your normal dose at the usual time the next day.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you experience any of the following serious side effects or symptoms, stop taking your tablets and tell your doctor immediately or go to the nearest hospital accident and emergency department and take your tablets with you.

- serious allergic reaction which causes swelling of the face, tongue and throat that can cause great difficulty in breathing
- serious illness with severe peeling and swelling of the skin, blistering of the skin, mouth, eyes, genitals and fever; skin rash with pink-red blotches especially on palms of hands or soles of feet, which may blister
- muscle weakness, tenderness, pain, rupture or red-brown discolouration of urine and particularly, if at the same time, you feel unwell or have a high temperature if may be caused by an abnormal muscle breakdown which can be life-threatening and lead to kidney problems
- lupus-like disease syndrome (including rash, joint disorders and effects on blood cells)

You should consult your doctor as soon as possible if you experience problems with unexpected or unusual bleeding or bruising, because this may be suggestive of a liver complaint.

Other possible side effects with Ezevast:

Common: (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Inflammation of the nasal passage, pain in the throat, nose bleed,
- Allergic reactions,
- Increasing blood glucose level, diabetic patients should monitor their blood glucose level
- Headache,
- Nausea, constipation, flatulence, diarrhoea, indigestion, abdominal pain,
- Pain in the pharynx and/or larynx,
- Pain of the joints and/or hands or feet, back pain, muscle pain (myalgia), muscle spasm, joint swelling,
- Increase in blood creatine kinase,
- Increased liver enzymes ALT and/or AST,
- Feeling tired,
- Abnormal liver function test,

Uncommon: (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Swellings due to an allergic reaction,
- Reduced blood glucose level, diabetic patients should monitor their blood glucose level
- Loss of appetite, weight gain,
- Cough,
- Muscle weakness, neck pain, chest pain,
- Hot flashes, high blood pressure,
- Vomiting, belching, inflammation of the pancreas and the liver, heartburn, inflammation of the stomach membranes, dry mouth,
- Redness of the skin, hives, skin rash, itching, hair loss,
- Nightmares, difficulty sleeping,
- Dizziness, numbness, impaired sense of taste, amnesia, local abnormal sensations,
- Blurred vision,
- Ringing in your ears,
- Feeling of general discomfort, uneasiness or pain,
- Weakness,
- Increased liver enzyme gamma-glutamyltransferase,
- Positive urine test on white blood cells.

Rare: (may affect up to 1 in 1 000 people)

- Reduction of blood platelets,
- Swelling of the lower layer of skin tissue of the face, tongue, throat, abdomen, arms or legs (angioneurotic oedema),
- Widespread rash forming sharply demarcated red patches or rash with blisters and peeling skin, particularly around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals due to an allergic reaction,
- Inflammation of the skeletal muscle, inflammation of the tendon sometimes complicated by rupture, muscle weakness due to a loss of skeletal muscle fibers,
- Visual disturbances,
- Yellowing of the skin and of the whites of the eyes.

Very rare: (may affect up to 1 in 10 000 people)

- Anaphylactic shock by allergic reaction,
- Hearing loss,
- Liver failure,
- Increase of the size of male breasts

Not known frequency (that cannot be estimated from the available data) are

- allergic reaction including rash and swelling of the lower layers of the skin,

- shortness of breath, inflammation of the gall bladder, gallstones,
- physical weakness and loss of strength, loss of muscle tissue by auto-immune antibodies,
- depression
- myasthenia gravis (a disease causing general muscle weakness including in some cases muscles used when breathing),
- ocular myasthenia (a disease causing eye muscle weakness),
- talk to your doctor if you experience weakness in your arms or legs that worsens after periods of activity, double vision or drooping of your eyelids, difficulty swallowing, or shortness of breath.

Additionally, the following side effects have been reported during post-marketing for some statins (medicines used to lower cholesterol):

- Breathing problems including persistent cough and/or shortness of breath or fever,
- Diabetes: frequency will depend on the presence or absence of risk factors (fasting blood glucose ≥ 5.6 mmol/L, BMI > 30 kg/m², raised triglycerides, history of hypertension),
- Depression,
- Sexual difficulties.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via Nederlands Bijwerkingen Centrum Lareb website: www.lareb.nl.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Ezevast

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Ezevast contains

- The active substances are ezetimibe and atorvastatin. Each tablet contains 10 mg of ezetimibe and 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg of atorvastatin (as atorvastatin calcium trihydrate).
- The other excipients are: lactose monohydrate, calcium carbonate, cellulose, microcrystalline, sodium lauryl sulfate [E 487], croscarmellose sodium, povidone K30, hydroxypropylcellulose, magnesium stearate and polysorbate 80.

What Ezevast looks like and contents of the pack

Ezevast 10 mg/10 mg tablets: White to off white, capsule-shaped tablets (12.7 mm × 5.1 mm) on one side debossed with “1”

Ezevast 10 mg/20 mg tablets: White to off white, capsule-shaped tablets (14.5 mm × 6.8 mm) on one side debossed with “2”

Ezevast 10 mg/40 mg tablets: White to off white, capsule-shaped tablets (16.4 mm × 6.3 mm) on one side debossed with “3”

Ezevast 10 mg/80 mg tablets: White to off white, capsule-shaped tablets (17.0 mm × 8.0 mm) on one side debossed with “4”

Tablets will be available in packs of 10, 30, 90 and 100 tablets in an OPA/Aluminium/PVC blister in a carton.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Houder voor het in de handel brengen en fabrikant

Houder voor het in de handel brengen

Fidia Farmaceutici S.p.A.
Via Ponte della Fabbrica 3/A
35031 Abano Terme
Italië

Fabrikant

Hennig Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG
Liebigstraße 1-2
65439 Flörsheim am Main, Hessen
Duitsland

Bluepharma Indústria Farmacêutica, S.A.
São Martinho do Bispo
3045-016 Coimbra
Portugal

Dit middel is in het register ingeschreven onder:

EZEVAST 10 mg/ 10 mg, tabletten RVG 125045
EZEVAST 10 mg/ 20 mg, tabletten RVG 125046
EZEVAST 10 mg/ 40 mg, tabletten RVG 125047
EZEVAST 10 mg/ 80 mg, tabletten RVG 125048

Dit geneesmiddel is geregistreerd in lidstaten van de EEA onder de volgende namen:

The Netherlands: EZEVAST 10 mg/ 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg, tabletten
Italy: EZEVAST

Deze bijsluiter is voor het laatst goedgekeurd in september 2023.