

PART III CONSUMER INFORMATION

Pr **CRESTOR**[®]

rosuvastatin calcium tablets

This leaflet is part of a "Product Monograph" published when CRESTOR was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about CRESTOR. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What CRESTOR is used for:

Your doctor has prescribed these pills to help lower your cholesterol or other fats in the blood (such as triglycerides) and lower the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

CRESTOR may be prescribed in children 10 to 17 years of age with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (an inherited condition causing high cholesterol levels in the blood) to lower cholesterol levels. Children require supervision from adult care givers during treatment with CRESTOR (adult care givers should read the information provided below before their child begins treatment with CRESTOR).

What CRESTOR does:

CRESTOR[®] is the brand name for rosuvastatin that belongs to the class of medications known as "statins", more specifically called HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors. HMG-CoA reductase is an enzyme involved in regulating cholesterol levels in your body. Statins are used along with changes to diet and exercise to help control the amount of cholesterol produced by the body.

CRESTOR can help your body:

- decrease LDL (bad) cholesterol and triglyceride levels.
- increase HDL (good) cholesterol levels.
- decrease the Total Cholesterol/HDL-Cholesterol Ratio (TC:HDL-C Ratio). The ratio represents the balance between good and bad cholesterol.

What is cholesterol?

Cholesterol is one of several fatty substances in the blood that the body needs to function. And it is important to our health. Our bodies use cholesterol in a number of ways; for example, to produce bile acids that help you digest fat.

High cholesterol levels may not make you feel or look sick. However, too much cholesterol in your blood can be unhealthy; it builds up on the artery walls and can lead to the signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease (heart disease).

There are two very different types of cholesterol.

LDL cholesterol

If levels of LDL cholesterol are too high, they can cause the gradual build-up of cholesterol called plaque on the walls of the blood vessels. Over time, this plaque can build up so much that it narrows the arteries. Narrow arteries can slow or block blood flow to vital organs like the heart and brain. Blocked blood flow can result in a heart attack or stroke.

HDL cholesterol

HDL carries the LDL cholesterol away from the blood vessel walls to the liver, where it can be removed from the body. A higher level of HDL cholesterol is good.

Important cholesterol targets

There are a few important measures that relate to your cholesterol. In addition to your HDL and LDL cholesterol, your doctor may also track your TC:HDL-C Ratio.

Lowering LDL cholesterol and Ratio

There are many things you can do, depending on your health and lifestyle, to help lower LDL cholesterol, increase HDL cholesterol and lower your TC: HDL-C Ratio. Your doctor may recommend:

- A change in your diet to control your weight and/or lower your cholesterol.
- Exercise that is right for you.
- Quitting smoking and avoiding smoky places.
- Giving up alcohol or drinking less.

Follow your doctor's instructions carefully.

When CRESTOR should not be used:

Do not take CRESTOR if you:

- Currently have liver disease.
- Are pregnant or think you might be pregnant. If you become pregnant while taking CRESTOR, discontinue use immediately and discuss with your doctor, as CRESTOR should not be used by pregnant women.
- Are breast-feeding.
- Have ever had an allergic reaction to the active ingredient or any of the other ingredients in CRESTOR. (**see What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:**)
- Are taking a drug called cyclosporine (used, for example, after organ transplant).

What the medicinal ingredient is:

Rosuvastatin calcium.

What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:

Calcium phosphate, crospovidone, glycerol triacetate, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, ferric oxide yellow, ferric oxide red, titanium dioxide.

CRESTOR contains lactose and colouring agents but does not contain gluten.

What dosage form it comes in:

CRESTOR film-coated tablets are available in 4 tablet strengths: 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg and 40 mg.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Pregnancy

CRESTOR should not be used by pregnant women. Cholesterol compounds are essential elements for the development of a fetus. Cholesterol-lowering drugs can harm the fetus. If you become pregnant, discontinue use immediately and tell your doctor.

If you are of childbearing age, discuss with your doctor the potential risks and the importance of birth control methods.

Before taking your CRESTOR tablets, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- Have thyroid problems.
- Regularly drink *three or more* alcoholic drinks daily.
- Have a family history of muscular disorders.
- Had any past problems with your muscles (pain, tenderness), after using an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (statin) such as atorvastatin (LIPITOR[®]), fluvastatin (LESCOL[®]), lovastatin (MEVACOR[®]), pravastatin (PRAVACHOL[®]), rosuvastatin (CRESTOR[®]) or simvastatin (ZOCOR[®]), or have developed an allergy or intolerance to them.
- Have kidney or liver problems.
- Have diabetes.
- Have undergone surgery or other tissue injury.
- Do excessive physical exercise.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Sometimes drugs can interact with other drugs, so tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medications, including prescription, non-prescription and natural health products. In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:

- Any other cholesterol-lowering medications such as fibrates (gemfibrozil, fenofibrate), niacin or ezetimibe.
- Warfarin (or any other drug for thinning the blood).
- Ritonavir combined with another protease inhibitor (for control of HIV infection).
- Antacids (frequent use) and CRESTOR should be taken 2 hours apart.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Your doctor prescribed this medicine only for you. Do not give your medicine to anyone else because it may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

Always follow your doctor's instructions carefully and keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

- Swallow each tablet whole with a drink of water. Take CRESTOR as a single dose.
- Remember to take CRESTOR at the same time every day. It does not matter if you take CRESTOR with or without food, or in the morning or evening.
- Do not change the dose or stop taking the medicine without first talking to your doctor.
- If you get sick, have an operation, or need medical treatment while you are taking CRESTOR, let the doctor or pharmacist know that you are taking CRESTOR.
- If you have to see a different doctor, for any reason, be sure to tell him/her of any medicines you might be taking, including CRESTOR.

To help you keep track of your doses, CRESTOR comes in a blister pack with days of the week printed on the back of the blister. Start with the tablet that matches the day of the week and continue taking them in order until they are all finished.

There are 14 days of labeled tablets in each blister, with one extra to make 15. All 15 tablets, including the one labeled "Take this tablet last", are exactly the same. Once you have finished the 14 labeled tablets, take the one marked "Take this tablet last" before starting your next blister pack.

Remember to get a new prescription from your doctor or a refill from your pharmacy a few days before all your tablets are taken.

Usual dose:

Adults

Treatment with CRESTOR is usually started with one 10 mg tablet taken once daily. Some people may be asked to start treatment with one 5 mg tablet taken once a day while others may be asked to start with one 20 mg tablet taken once a day.

After checking the amount of lipids in your blood, your doctor may decide to adjust your dose until you are taking the amount of CRESTOR that is right for you. The maximum daily dose is 40 mg.

Children 10 to 17 years of age with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia

Treatment with CRESTOR is usually started at a dose of 5 mg once daily. After checking the amount of lipids in your blood, your doctor may decide to adjust your dose until you are taking the amount of CRESTOR that is right for you. The maximum daily dose is 10 mg.

Overdose:

There is no specific treatment in the event of an overdose. Contact your doctor or nearest hospital for advice.

For the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

Missed dose:

Do not take a double dose. If you miss taking a tablet, take it as soon as you can. But if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and just take the next dose.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Most people do not have side effects when taking CRESTOR. However, all medicines can cause unwanted side effects. These effects are usually mild and disappear after a short time.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist promptly if any of the following persist or become troublesome:

- Stomach pain
- Headache
- Constipation
- Dizziness
- Feeling sick

Less commonly, some people may have other side effects such as a skin rash, itching and hives.

Very rarely a few people may suffer from jaundice, a liver condition called hepatitis, joint pain, memory loss, muscle weakness that is constant or breast enlargement (gynecomastia) (in men and women). On very rare occasions some people may develop an inflamed pancreas called pancreatitis, a symptom of which is severe stomach pain.

Possible side effects reported with some statins: breathing problems including persistent cough and/or shortness of breath or fever; mood problems including depression; problems sleeping including insomnia and nightmares; erectile dysfunction.

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SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom / Effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist	
	Only if severe	In all cases		
Rare	Muscle pain that you cannot explain		√	
	Muscle tenderness or weakness		√	
	Generalized weakness, especially if you do not feel well		√	
	Brownish or discoloured urine		√	
	Difficulty in breathing or swallowing			√
	Swelling of the face or tongue			√
	Severe itching of the skin with raised lumps (hives)			√

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking CRESTOR, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

- KEEP YOUR TABLETS IN A SAFE PLACE where children cannot see or reach them. Your tablets could harm them.
- Keep your medicine at room temperature (15°C-30°C), away from warm or damp places like bathrooms or kitchens.
- Keep your tablets in the package they came in.
- If your doctor decides to stop your treatment, return your tablets to your pharmacist for disposal.
- Do not take your tablets after the expiry date on the package.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

Report online at

www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect

Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345

Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:

Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or

Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program

Health Canada

Postal Locator 0701E

Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at

www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect.

NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

NOTE: This INFORMATION FOR THE CONSUMER leaflet provides you with the most current information at the time of printing.

For the most current information, the Consumer Information Leaflet plus the full Product Monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at:

www.astrazeneca.ca,

or by contacting the sponsor, AstraZeneca Canada Inc. at:

Customer Inquiries – 1 (800) 668-6000,

Renseignements – 1 (800) 461-3787.

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