

FDA adds new safety information to statin drugs

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health officials are adding new safety warnings about risks of memory loss and elevated blood sugar to statins, a widely prescribed group of cholesterol-lowering medications.

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The Food and Drug Administration announced several labeling changes to medicines like Lipitor, Crestor and Zocor.

Labeling on all such drugs will warn of memory loss and confusion reported among certain patients taking statins.

The problems were generally not serious and went away after patients stopped taking the drugs, according to the FDA.

The updated labels will also mention elevated levels of blood sugar reported in some patients taking statins.

Statin drugs are mainly prescribed to prevent heart attacks in people with clogged arteries and work by dramatically lowering LDL or "bad cholesterol." They were the third best-selling drug class in the U.S. for 2010.

PAUL J. RICHARDS, AFP/Getty Images
 In the United States, anti-cholesterol drugs account for 255 million prescriptions a year, and about nine million people are taking Lipitor.

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Jeffery Martin · Top Commenter

After doubling my statin dose trying to get my cholesterol numbers down a blood workup showed that my glucose levels were way up. Damned if you do and damned if you don'.

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Modesto Rodriguez Montes · Top Commenter

Jeffrey, handle your cholesterol with food and exercise. It takes some discipline and some effort but it is effective and you will not be swallowing these poisons daily.

With drugs, the "erasy" way only takes to more sickness and more drugs.

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John Bengel · Top Commenter · Retired Pharmacist at Retired Pharmacist

Statins, blood thinners and bone hardeners are the three biggest drug scams. I should know. rx

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Billy Snapp · Top Commenter · Harvard University

Please explain.

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Randy Miles · Administrative Officer at Usgs

it also makes your whiskers grow

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Bjørn Stuverød · Top Commenter · Boss at Mig selv

Do not eat chemicals it make you sick use herb it make you healthy

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Billy Snapp · Top Commenter · Harvard University

Son, herbs are full of many different chemicals.

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Bjørn Stuverød · Top Commenter · Boss at Mig selv

Billy Snapp No herb is not chemicals son,chemicals is make of human herb is make of God it is wrong to call dat as are in herb fore chemicals I do not know who idiot as started to do dat chemicals is mande by man.Dat as are in herb is drug pante juice I tink you are so stupid you call chemicals fore drug to,drug is juice from plants and animal as work at the brain..

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Billy Snapp · Top Commenter · Harvard University

Bjørn Stuverød ... Water, cocaine, morphine, taxol, and caffeine are all examples of natural chemicals found in plants (and ones that humans can make.) While many are, don't be lulled into the false belief that all herbs are healthy. I just wanted to point out that herbs can be risky, too.

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Engage America

Statins are high-risk drugs. Studies show very few people actually benefit from taking them. But they make money. The FDA has admitted that all the dangerous side effects are real. Then assures the public the threats are not serious. Talk about being in big pharma's pocket. Here's a great read from Natural News: <http://bit.ly/z4aoDw>

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Beth Kissel · Top Commenter · University of Cincinnati at University of Cincinnati, DAAP

Most of the time the side effects of drugs are worse than the disease they are trying to fix or cure. You have to weigh the pro's and cons but in general, avoid drugs if at all possible.

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LaRue McNamara · Woodrow Wilson Vocational High School

I heard about it today on the news and will look into it.

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