Fluvastatin belongs to a group of medicines called statins, which are medicines intended for the regulation of cholesterol. This medicines reduce the “bad cholesterol” and raise “good” cholesterol. Your doctor has prescribed you a medicine fluvastatin to reduced your cholesterol, you also can get recommendations for change in lifestyle and diet. High levels of cholesterol in the blood are associated with an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Do not use this medicine

- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to the fluvastatin
- If you have active liver disease, yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes caused by liver disease or unexplained causes persistent elevations of liver function tests (transaminases)
- If you are pregnant
- If you are breast-feeding

Warning and precautions

- If you suffer from liver disease. Liver function tests should be done before you start taking the medicine fluvastatin, when doctor increase the dose of the medicine or in different intervals in order to check that there were no adverse effects of the medicine
- If you have a difficult respiratory failure
- If you suffer from kidney disease
- If you suffer from thyroid disease
- If you or any of your family members suffer from muscle disease
• If you are older than 70 years
• If you have had muscle problems with other medicines for lowering fat
• If you regularly take large quantities of alcohol

Use with other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including those obtained without a prescription. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following:

• Ciclosporin (a medicine which is used to suppress the immune system), fluconazole and itraconazole (medicines to treat fungal infections), or colchicine (a medicine for gout), concomitant use may lead to an increased risk of muscle problems
• Fibrates (gemfibrozil, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate) or nicotinic acid (niacin) (medication for lowering cholesterol), concomitant use may lead to increased risk for the development of muscle problems
• Resins for lowering cholesterol (cholestyramine), concomitant use may reduce the effect of fluvastatin
• Rifampicin (an antibiotic), concomitant use may reduce the effect of fluvastatin
• Phenytoin (an epilepsy medicine), concomitant use may result in the accumulation of phenytoin in the blood which can cause a side effect
• Medicines to prevent blood clotting, such as warfarin, concomitant administration may increase the effect of warfarin and cause bleeding
• Glibenclamide and tolbutamide (a medicine for diabetes), or if your doctor thinks it is combination is necessary, you should be aware that it can increase the level of glibenclamide and tolbutamide in the blood, which may increase the risk of a drop in blood sugar (hypoglycemia)

Taking food and drinks with the medicine fluvastatin

You should avoid alcohol when being treated with fluvastatin.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Contact your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine. Do not take the medicine fluvastatin if you are pregnant, think you are pregnant or trying to conceive. Women of childbearing potential must use effective contraception. Do not take fluvastatin if you are breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

There is no studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines.

Medicines use

Always take fluvastatin exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure. Before you start taking fluvastatin you should start lowering diet cholesterol, with which you should continue during treatment with this medicine. Fluvastatin may be taken
with food and drink or without food and drink. Tablets should be swallowed whole with a glass of water. Adults Dose for lowering cholesterol and triglyceride levels: Fluvastatin extended-release tablets are not appropriate to start treatment! Do not crush the tablets. If the fluvastatin 80 mg prolonged-release tablets can not be achieve the appropriate dose may be used and other available tablet strength/pharmaceutical formulations containing fluvastatin. The required dosage can be determined by your doctor. Keep taking fluvastatin exactly as your doctor said. Dose after the expansion of blood vessels of the heart surgery with cardiac catheter: The recommended dose is 80 mg of fluvastatin once daily. Duration of treatment The maximum effect is achieved within 4 weeks of starting treatment and is maintained by continuous taking the medicine fluvastatin. Dosage adjustment is made only as directed by your doctor. Elderly It is not necessary to adapt the recommended daily dose of 80 mg of fluvastatin in elderly patients. Children and young people There are no data on the use of fluvastatin in children and adults younger than 18 years. Decreased renal function It is not necessary to adapt the recommended daily dose of 80 mg in patients with kidney problems. Reduced liver function Consult your doctor if you have severe liver problems. Fluvastatin should not be taken into this case.

**Overdose**

If you apply more than the prescribed amount of medication, consult your doctor or pharmacist! If you apply more medication than you should, contact your doctor or nearest hospital for help. Take medicine box with you, as this will facilitate its identification.

**If you forget to take the medicine**

If you forget to take medication, do not use double dose later. Simply continue to use the medicine according to the usual schedule. If you missed medication applied, please do so as soon as possible, and then proceed with its application to the usual schedule and suitably.

**Side effects**

Serious side effects: The following are mentioned serious side effects. You may need urgent medical care if you have a of which:

- If you suffer from depression
- If you have difficulty breathing, including cough and / or shortness of breath or fever

Rare (affects 1 to 10 users in 10,000) or very rare (occurring in 1 in 10,000 patients)

- If you have unexplained muscle pain, sensitivity to touch, or weakness, especially if at the same time feel unwell or have a fever. These may be early symptoms of severe muscle degradation, and can be prevented if your doctor as soon discontinue treatment fluvastatin. These side effects can be occur in the treatment of similar medicines in this group of medicines (statins such as atorvastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin).
- If you feel unusual tiredness or fever, yellowing of the skin and eyes, dark colored urine (signs of hepatitis)
- If you have skin reactions such as skin rash, hives, redness, itching, swelling of the face, eyelids or lips
- If the bleeding or bruising more easily occurs than normal (significantly reduced the number of blood platelets)
- If you have a red or purple skin lesions (a sign of inflammation of blood vessels)
- If you have red blotchy rash mainly on the face, which may be accompanied by a sense of fatigue, fever, joint pains, muscle pain (signs of lupus erythematosus similar reactions)
- If you have severe pain in the upper abdomen (a sign of inflammation of the pancreas)

Other side effects: Common (affects 1 in 10 patients): Trouble sleeping including insomnia and nightmares, headaches, fatigue, dizziness, discomfort in stomach, abdominal pain, constipation, wind, diarrhea, nausea, joint pain, blood tests who show changed the function of the liver. Very rare (occurring in 1 in 10,000 patients) Tingling or numbness of the hands and feet, abnormal or decreased sensation. Unknown frequency: Memory loss, sexual difficulties.