

R_x CHOLESTEROL-LOWERING DRUGS

TYPE	EXAMPLES	SIDE EFFECTS	COMMENTS
Bile acid binders	Cholestyramine Colesevelam Colestipol	Constipation, abdominal pain, nausea, bloating, and an increased triglyceride level	These drugs lower the LDL cholesterol level. However, they can bind with other drugs and reduce their effectiveness.
Cholesterol absorption inhibitor	Ezetimibe	Abdominal pain, diarrhea, and fatigue	Ezetimibe lowers LDL and total cholesterol levels. Often, ezetimibe is used with a statin to further lower these levels.
Fibric acid derivatives	Fenofibrate Gemfibrozil	Diarrhea, nausea, bloating, abdominal pain, rash, abnormal levels of liver enzymes, muscle inflammation, and gallstones	These drugs may slightly increase the HDL cholesterol level and decrease the triglyceride level.
Lipoprotein synthesis inhibitor	Niacin	Flushing, itching, digestive upset, ulcers, increased levels of liver enzymes, gout, and a high blood sugar level (hyperglycemia)	Niacin lowers the LDL cholesterol level and increases the HDL cholesterol level.
Statins (HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors)	Atorvastatin Fluvastatin Lovastatin Pravastatin Rosuvastatin Simvastatin	Mild constipation, loose stools, bloating, headaches, rashes, fatigue, muscle soreness (due to inflammation and degeneration), and inflammation of the liver	These drugs lower the LDL cholesterol level. They slightly lower the triglyceride level and moderately increase the HDL cholesterol level.

HMG-CoA = 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A.