FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking atorvastatin safely

atorvastatin (Lipitor) · statin · once a day, any time, with or without food

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. **Brushing off muscle pain**
   Unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness: call your doctor right away.
2. **Mixing with the wrong medicines**
   Grapefruit juice, certain antibiotics, antifungals and other cholesterol drugs raise your risk.
3. **Overthinking the timing**
   Any time of day, with or without food. Missed a dose? Just take the next one.

How to take it

- **Once a day, any time, with or without food.** Whichever is easiest to remember.
- **Missed a dose?** Wait and take your next dose at the regular time. Never take 2 doses at once.
- Your doctor may also start you on a low-fat diet.

Medicines and drinks that raise your risk

- **Grapefruit juice:** avoid more than 40 oz a day.
- Certain antibiotics (clarithromycin), antifungals (itraconazole), other cholesterol drugs (gemfibrozil, fibrates, niacin), colchicine, and some HIV or hepatitis C medicines.
- Show your pharmacist every prescription, over-the-counter medicine and supplement you take.

Call your doctor right away if you notice

- Unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness, especially with fever or feeling more tired than usual.
- Signs of liver trouble: tired or weak, nausea, loss of appetite, upper belly pain, dark urine, or yellow skin or eyes.

IMPORTANT
Higher risk for muscle problems: age 65+, uncontrolled thyroid problems, kidney problems, or a higher dose.

Good to know

- Can raise blood sugar; tell your doctor if you have diabetes.

Pregnant or planning to be? Stop atorvastatin and call your doctor right away. Breastfeeding is not recommended.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.
Source: FDA prescribing information and Patient Information for LIPITOR (rev. 4/2024). LIPITOR is a trademark of its owner.

Scan for the full guide