FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking ezetimibe safely

ezetimibe (Zetia) · lowers cholesterol

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. **Too close to a bile acid binder**
   Take it 2 hours before or 4 hours after cholestyramine, colestipol or colesevelam.
2. **Not telling about liver disease or fibrates**
   Not recommended with moderate or severe liver disease, or fibrates other than fenofibrate.
3. **Brushing off muscle pain**
   Unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness: tell your provider right away.

How to take it

- **Once a day, with or without food.** Keep up your cholesterol diet and exercise plan.
- **Missed a dose?** Take it when you remember. Almost time for the next one? Skip it. Never 2 doses at once.

Bile acid binder timing (mistake #1)

- Cholestyramine, colestipol, colesevelam: take ezetimibe **at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after**.

Tell your pharmacist

- Liver disease: not recommended if moderate or severe.
- A fibrate such as gemfibrozil: not recommended (fenofibrate is the exception).
- Cyclosporine: needs extra blood level checks.
- Your provider may check liver tests and cholesterol, sometimes after 4 weeks.

Call your provider right away if you notice

- Unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness, especially with a statin or fibrate
- Muscle problems with fever or unusual tiredness

EMERGENCY: CALL 911
Swelling of the face, tongue or throat, trouble breathing or swallowing, fainting, or a severe rash: get medical help right away.

Good to know

Pregnant, planning to be, or breastfeeding? Talk with your provider. There isn't enough information about ezetimibe in pregnancy. If you also take a statin or fenofibrate, ask about that medicine too.

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 for ZETIA (ezetimibe), rev. 7/2023. ZETIA is a trademark of its owner.

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