

Ezetimibe

Ezetimibe is used to lower plasma cholesterol in patients with hyperlipidemia by preventing cholesterol reabsorption at the small intestine brush border. As a consequence of blocking cholesterol absorption, LDL receptors are upregulated, causing increased LDL uptake into cells. Thus, there is a lower LDL value in circulating blood. A common side effect of this medication is diarrhea, which occurs as a result of large amounts of cholesterol being trapped in the gut lumen. A rare side effect of Ezetimibe treatment is increased LFT values.



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Indications

Hyperlipidemia

Hiker-lips

This drug is indicated for hyperlipidemia, which refers to abnormally high levels of lipids or lipoproteins in the blood.

Mechanism of Action

Cholesterol Absorption Blocker

Cholesterol-burgers Blocked

Ezetimibe is a cholesterol absorption blocker that targets Niemann-Pick C1-Like 1 (NPC1L1), a sterol transporter, resulting in decreased uptake of cholesterol at the brush border of the small-intestine. They are especially effective when combined with statins, another class of drugs used to treat hyperlipidemia.

Decreases LDL

Down-arrow Ladybug-devil

Ezetimibe decreases cholesterol absorption, which leads to LDL receptor upregulation. This results in increased uptake of LDL into cells, and decreased levels in the blood.

Side Effects

Diarrhea

Toilet

A side effect of Ezetimibe is diarrhea, as inhibition of cholesterol absorption keeps cholesterol in the intestinal lumen to be excreted.

Increased LFT Values

Up-arrow Liver with Test-tubes

Liver function tests are a set of laboratory blood tests meant to assess the state of a patient's liver. Those taking Ezetimibe are cautioned to monitor liver function tests (LFT), although increased LFT values are a very rare side effect.