

Ezetimibe

Ezetimibe is used to lower plasma cholesterol in patients with hyperlipidemia by preventing cholesterol absorption 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 due to 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](#)

Patients taking ezetimibe are cautioned to monitor liver function tests (LFT), although increased LFT values is a very rare side effect.