

Fibrates

Fibrates are carboxylic acid medications indicated for use in hyperlipidemia and other dyslipidemias. These drugs work via many mechanisms, leading to decreased triglycerides, slight increases in HDL and slight decreases in LDL. Fibrates lead to upregulation of LPL, allowing accessibility to triglyceride-rich lipoproteins for lipolysis. Another mechanism they work by is increasing hepatic uptake of fatty acids and decreasing hepatic production of triglycerides, decreasing their overall plasma levels. A slight increase in HDL is caused by increased amounts of Apoproteins A-I and A-II, which allow more efficient reverse cholesterol transport. A slight decrease in LDL is seen with fibrate administration due to formation of LDL with a higher affinity for its receptor, allowing it to be catabolized quicker. Side effects of fibrate drugs include hepatotoxicity and increased LFT values, as well as cholesterol gallstones, which is due to increased cholesterol content in bile. Other side effects include myalgias, increased CPK, and resulting acute kidney injury.



PLAY PICMONIC

Indications

Hyperlipidemia

[Hiker-lips](#)

This drug is indicated for treating hyperlipidemia, which refers to abnormally high levels of lipids or lipoproteins in the blood. Fibrates are also used for other dyslipidemias, such as hypertriglyceremia.

Mechanism of Action

Upregulate LPL

[Up-regulator Lip-laser](#)

Fibrates upregulate lipoprotein lipase, which is required for triglyceride metabolism in the blood.

Decreases Triglycerides

[Down-arrow TAG-triceratops](#)

Triglyceride (TAG) levels are decreased through treatment by fibrates because these drugs increase accessibility triglyceride-rich lipoprotein to be hydrolyzed by lipoprotein lipase. Another mechanism by which TAGs are decreased is inducing hepatic fatty acid uptake and reducing hepatic triglyceride production.

Slight Increase in HDL

[Small Up-arrow Hot-dog-angel](#)

Fibrates increase production of apoA-I and apoA-II in the liver. This leads to an increase of plasma HDL concentrations and a more efficient reverse cholesterol transport.

Slight Decrease in LDL

[Small Down-arrow Ladybug](#)

Treatment with these medications forms LDL which has a higher affinity for its receptor, and are consequentially broken down more rapidly.

Side Effect

Hepatotoxicity

[Liver with Toxic-green-glow](#)

Treatment with these drugs may lead to hepatotoxicity and increased liver function test (LFTs) values. Other side effects include myopathy, increased CPK, and renal failure.

Cholesterol Gallstones

[Cholesterol-burgers with Gold-stones](#)

As these drugs increase the cholesterol content of bile, there is an increased risk of cholesterol gallstones.