

Prescribing Hot Topics



Simvastatin updated advice on interactions

Updated advice has recently been issued by the MHRA with regards to drug interactions and contra-indications for simvastatin.

Changes include contraindications to concomitant use with certain medicines and maximum dose recommendations when simvastatin is taken with a number of other medicines, as these interactions may increase plasma concentrations of simvastatin which is associated with an increased risk of myopathy and/or rhabdomyolysis.

Key points:

- Simvastatin is now contraindicated with ciclosporin, danazol and gemfibrozil
- The maximum recommended dose for simvastatin in conjunction with amlodipine or diltiazem is now 20 mg/day.
- Prescribers are advised to review prescribing in the light of these changes

A full updated listing of all the interactions is provided in the table below.

Drug interactions associated with increased risk of myopathy/rhabdomyolysis	
Interacting agents	Prescribing recommendations
Itraconazole, Ketoconazole, Posaconazole Erythromycin, Clarithromycin, Telithromycin HIV protease inhibitors Nefazodone Ciclosporin Danazol Gemfibrozil	Contraindicated with simvastatin
Fibrates (except fenofibrate)	Do not exceed 10 mg simvastatin daily
Amiodarone Amlodipine Verapamil Diltiazem	Do not exceed 20 mg simvastatin daily
Fusidic acid	Close monitoring. Temporary suspension of simvastatin may be considered.
Grapefruit juice	Avoid grapefruit juice with simvastatin