

SCHEDULING STATUS: S4

PROPRIETARY NAME (AND DOSAGE FORM):

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 10 (Tablets)
CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 20 (Tablets)
CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 40 (Tablets)
CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 80 (Tablets)

COMPOSITION:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 10: Each film-coated tablet contains 10 mg simvastatin. Inactive ingredients include ascorbic acid, butylated hydroxy-anisole, citric acid monohydrate, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinised starch, talc and titanium dioxide.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 20: Each film-coated tablet contains 20 mg simvastatin. Inactive ingredients include ascorbic acid, butylated hydroxy-anisole, citric acid monohydrate, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinised starch, talc and titanium dioxide.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 40: Each film-coated tablet contains 40 mg simvastatin. Inactive ingredients include ascorbic acid, butylated hydroxy-anisole, citric acid monohydrate, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, iron oxide red, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinised starch, talc and titanium dioxide.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 80: Each film-coated tablet contains 80 mg simvastatin. Inactive ingredients include ascorbic acid, butylated hydroxy-anisole, citric acid monohydrate, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, iron oxide red, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinised starch, talc and titanium dioxide.

Contains lactose.

Sugar-free.

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

A 7.5 Serum-cholesterol reducers.

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION:

Simvastatin, a cholesterol-lowering agent, is a synthetic derivative of a fermentation product of *Aspergillus terreus*. Simvastatin is an inactive lactone, and is hydrolysed to its active form, the corresponding beta-hydroxyacid, after oral ingestion. The beta-hydroxy acid, a principal metabolite, inhibits 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase. This enzyme catalyses the conversion of HMG-CoA to mevalonate, which is an early and rate-limiting step in the biosynthesis of cholesterol. Simvastatin, due to the inhibition of this enzyme, therefore reduces total plasma cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL)- and very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL)-cholesterol concentrations. Simvastatin also reduces apolipoprotein B, variably reduces plasma triglycerides and moderately increases high-density lipoprotein (HDL)-cholesterol.

Pharmacokinetics:

There is extensive first-pass extraction by the liver, with oral bioavailability of the active medicine or metabolites being less than 5%. More than 95% of simvastatin and its beta-hydroxy metabolite are bound to plasma proteins. Following an oral dose, peak plasma concentrations of simvastatin are seen in 1 to 2 hours. Simvastatin is excreted primarily via the liver, and less than 13% of its metabolites are excreted in the urine.

INDICATIONS:

HYPERCHOLESTEROLAEMIA:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN is indicated, in combination with diet, to decrease elevated serum total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol in patients with:

- Primary hypercholesterolaemia,
- Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, or
- Mixed hyperlipidaemia,

when response to diet or other nonpharmacological measures alone is not adequate.

CORONARY HEART DISEASE:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN is indicated in patients with coronary heart disease and hypercholesterolaemia unresponsive to diet, to:

- Reduce the risk of non-fatal myocardial infarction,
- Reduce the risk of total mortality, by reducing coronary death,
- Slow the progression of coronary atherosclerosis, and
- Reduce the risk of undergoing myocardial revascularisation procedures (percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty and coronary artery bypass grafting).

CONTRA-INDICATIONS:

Hypersensitivity to simvastatin, other HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, or any of the ingredients.

Acute or chronic liver disease.

Unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases.

Pregnancy and lactation (see **"WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS"**).

Porphyria: Safety has not been established.

WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN should not be used in female patients of child-bearing potential as the active metabolite is foetotoxic and teratogenic in rats.

As the safety and efficacy of simvastatin has not been established in paediatric patients, it is not recommended in this population.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN should be used with caution in patients who:

- Consume substantial amounts of alcohol and/or who have a history of liver disease.
- May be predisposed to developing renal failure secondary to rhabdomyolysis, such as in those with severe acute infection, hypotension, severe metabolic, endocrine or electrolyte disorders, uncontrolled seizures, major surgery or trauma. There is an increased risk of developing renal failure if rhabdomyolysis occurs.
- Have severe renal impairment.

Hepatic Effects:

Liver function tests, including serum transaminase determinations are recommended prior to initiation of **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** therapy and periodically until one year after the last elevation in dose. **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** should be discontinued if the rise in transaminase levels is persistent and/or increases to three times or more the upper limit of normal (ULN).

Myopathy:

Reducing the risk of myopathy:

1. General measures:

Patients starting therapy with **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** should be advised of the risk of myopathy and should promptly report unexplained muscle pain, weakness or tenderness. Unexplained muscle symptoms in a patient and a creatine kinase (CK) level of more than 10 times the upper limit of normal (ULN), indicates myopathy. If myopathy is diagnosed or suspected, **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** should be discontinued.

2. Measures to reduce the risk of myopathy caused by medicine interactions:

The benefits and risks of using **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** together with fibrates, lipid-lowering doses of niacin or immunosuppressants should be carefully considered, and in these instances the dose of simvastatin should generally not exceed 10 mg/day. Concomitant administration with cyclosporin, itraconazole, ketoconazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin, HIV-protease inhibitors and nefazodone, is not recommended. **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** should be temporarily discontinued in patients who are also receiving cyclosporin, if systemic azole derivative antifungal therapy is required.

Lactose:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN contains lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems or a history of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN**.

INTERACTIONS:

Myopathy caused by medicine interactions:

Concomitant administration of medicines that inhibit cytochrome P-450 isoenzyme CYP3A4 may result in high plasma levels of **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN**, thus increasing the risk of myopathy, and is not recommended. Medicines that inhibit cytochrome P-450 isoenzyme CYP3A4 include: cyclosporin, itraconazole, ketoconazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin, HIV-protease inhibitors and nefazodone.

The risk of myopathy is increased when other medicines that cause myopathy, such as fibrates and niacin, are given with **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN**. A maximum dose of 10 mg simvastatin daily is recommended in patients taking cyclosporin, fibrates or lipid-lowering doses of niacin (nicotinic acid).

Digoxin:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN may cause increases in digoxin levels.

Coumarin derivatives (e.g. warfarin):

A possible increase in the anticoagulant effect of the coumarin anticoagulants may occur. Patients taking a coumarin anticoagulant should have their INR determined before starting **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** therapy. The INR should be monitored frequently enough in the early stages of therapy until stabilised. Once the INR has been stabilised, it can then be monitored at the usual intervals recommended for patients on coumarin anticoagulants. When there is a dose adjustment of **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN**, this procedure should be repeated.

Bile acid sequestrants:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN should be taken 1 hour before or 4 hours after cholestyramine. Concurrent use may decrease the bioavailability of **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN**.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

Safety in pregnancy and lactation has not been established.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN should not be used in female patients of child-bearing potential, as its active metabolite is foetotoxic and teratogenic in rats.

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

The patient must follow a cholesterol-lowering diet before initiation of, and while on **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** therapy.

HYPERCHOLESTEROLAEMIA:

Adults: Initial dose: 10 mg daily as a single dose in the evening.

The dose of **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** should be reduced if LDL-cholesterol levels fall below 1,94 mmol/l, or total plasma cholesterol levels fall below 3,6 mmol/l.

CORONARY HEART DISEASE:

Adults: Initial dose: 20 mg/day as a single dose in the evening.

Dosage Adjustments:

If required, the dose should be adjusted at intervals of not less than 4 weeks, up to a maximum of 80 mg daily as a single dose in the evening.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN can be taken with meals or on an empty stomach.

DOSAGE IN RENAL INSUFFICIENCY:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN does not undergo significant renal excretion, therefore, modification of dose should not be necessary in patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency. In patients with severe renal insufficiency, **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** therapy should be closely monitored and doses above 10 mg/day should be implemented with caution.

CONCOMITANT THERAPY:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN is effective on its own or in combination with bile acid sequestrants, but when these medicines are prescribed concomitantly, **CIPLA SIMVASTATIN** should be administered 1 hour before or 4 hours after cholestyramine (see **"INTERACTIONS"**). A maximum daily dose of 10 mg simvastatin is recommended in patients taking cyclosporin, fibrates or niacin concomitantly (see **"INTERACTIONS"**).

SIDE-EFFECTS:

Blood and lymphatic system disorders:

Frequent: Anaemia, neutropenia.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders:

Less frequent: Mass gain has been reported.

Nervous system disorders:

Less frequent: Headache, dizziness, fatigue, asthenia, paraesthesia, peripheral neuropathy.

Gastrointestinal disorders:

Frequent: Constipation, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, flatulence, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, cramps, and pancreatitis.

Skin, appendages and subcutaneous tissue disorders:

Frequent: Skin rash, alopecia.

Musculoskeletal disorders:

Frequent: Myalgia, muscle cramps.

Less frequent: Myopathy, myositis, rhabdomyolysis presenting as muscle pain with elevated creatine phosphokinase and myoglobinuria leading to renal failure.

Hypersensitivity reactions:

Less frequent: Reactions may include angioedema, lupus-like syndrome, polymyalgia rheumatica, vasculitis, thrombocytopenia, increased erythrocyte sedimentation rate, eosinophilia, arthritis, arthralgia, urticaria, photosensitivity, fever, flushing, malaise, and dyspnoea.

LABORATORY TEST FINDINGS

Marked and persistent increases of serum transaminases and elevated alkaline phosphatase and gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase have been reported. These liver function test abnormalities have generally been mild and have been of a transient nature. There have also been reports of increases in serum creatine kinase (CK) levels, derived from skeletal muscle (see **"WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS"**).

KNOWN SYMPTOMS OF OVERDOSAGE AND PARTICULARS OF ITS TREATMENT:

(See **"SIDE-EFFECTS AND WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS"**).

Liver function should be monitored and general measures adopted.

Treatment is symptomatic and supportive.

IDENTIFICATION:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 10: Light pink coloured, oval, biconvex, intact film-coated tablets

debossed with 'SVN 10' on one side and plain on the other side.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 20: Tan coloured, oval, biconvex, intact film-coated tablets

debossed with 'SVN 20' on one side and plain on the other side.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 40: Pink coloured, oval, biconvex, intact film-coated tablets

debossed with 'SVN 40' on one side and scored on the other.

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 80: Pink coloured, capsule shaped, biconvex, intact film-coated

tablets debossed with 'SVN 80' on one side and scored on the other.

PRESENTATION:

White, opaque PVC and aluminium foil blister strips of 10 tablets packed in 30's or blister strips of 14 tablets packed in 28's.

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS:

Store in a dry place at or below 25°C. Protect from light. Keep the blisters in the outer carton until required for use.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS:

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 10: A40/7.5/0397

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 20: A40/7.5/0398

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 40: A38/7.5/0370

CIPLA SIMVASTATIN 80: A38/7.5/0371

NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION:

CIPLA MEDPRO (PTY) LTD.

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