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Volume 61 (Issue 1581)

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IN BRIEF

***Ezallor Sprinkle* — A New Formulation of Rosuvastatin**

The lipid-lowering drug rosuvastatin is now available in a sprinkle capsule formulation (*Ezallor Sprinkle* – Sun Pharma). Rosuvastatin tablets (*Crestor*, and generics) have been available since 2003.^{1,2}

Pronunciation Key

Ezallor: ez' ah lor

Table 1: Rosuvastatin Products

Drug	Formulations	Cost ¹
generic	5, 10, 20, 40 mg tabs	\$6.30
<i>Crestor</i> (AstraZeneca)		260.90
<i>Ezallor Sprinkle</i> (Sun Pharma)	5, 10, 20, 40 mg caps	85.50

1. Approximate WAC for 30 days' treatment. All strengths of *Crestor* and *Ezallor Sprinkle* cost the same. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource[®] Monthly. September 5, 2019. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2019. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

The new formulation is being marketed specifically for residents of long-term care facilities who have difficulty swallowing. *Ezallor Sprinkle* capsules can be swallowed whole or opened and their contents sprinkled over applesauce or mixed with water for administration via nasogastric tube.

For those long-term care residents who still have a reasonable indication for a statin but have difficulty swallowing whole tablets, crushing generic rosuvastatin tablets would be a much less expensive option. ■

Additional Content Available Online

Expanded Table: Statins

<http://medicalletter.org/TML-article-1581f>

1. Rosuvastatin – a new lipid-lowering drug. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2003; 45:81.
2. Lipid-lowering drugs. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2019; 61:17.

Table 1. Statins

Drug	Some Formulations	Usual Adult Dosage ¹	Average LDL-C Reduction ²	Cost ³
Atorvastatin – generic <i>Lipitor</i> (Pfizer)	10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs	Initial: 10-20 mg once/day Maximum: 80 mg once/day ⁴	35-40% 50-60%	\$6.40 314.40
Fluvastatin – generic <i>Lescol</i> (Novartis)	20, 40 mg caps	Initial: 40 mg bid ⁵ Maximum: 40 mg bid ⁵	30-35% 30-35%	240.00 306.00
extended-release – generic <i>Lescol XL</i>	80 mg ER tabs	Initial: 80 mg once/day ⁵ Maximum: 80 mg once/day ⁵	35-40% 35-40%	202.20 323.00
Lovastatin – generic	10, 20, 40 mg tabs	Initial: 20 mg once/day Maximum: 80 mg once/day ^{6,7}	25-30% 35-40%	5.90
extended-release – <i>Altoprev</i> (Covis)	20, 40, 60 mg ER tabs	Initial: 20 mg once/day Maximum: 60 mg once/day ⁷	20-25% 40-45%	985.60
Pitavastatin calcium ⁸ – <i>Livalo</i> (Kowa)	1, 2, 4 mg tabs	Initial: 2 mg once/day ⁹ Maximum: 4 mg once/day ⁹	35-40% 40-45%	295.60
Pitavastatin magnesium ⁸ – <i>Zypitamag</i> (Medicure)	1, 2, 4 mg tabs	Initial: 2 mg once/day ⁹ Maximum: 4 mg once/day ⁹	35-40% 40-45%	232.50
Pravastatin – generic <i>Pravachol</i> (BMS)	10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs 20, 40, 80 mg tabs	Initial: 40 mg once/day ^{10,11} Maximum: 80 mg once/day ¹¹	30-35% 35-40%	14.60 169.70
Rosuvastatin – generic <i>Crestor</i> (AstraZeneca)	5, 10, 20, 40 mg tabs	Initial: 10-20 mg once/day ^{12,13} Maximum: 40 mg once/day ^{13,14}	45-50% 50-60%	6.30 260.90
<i>Ezallor Sprinkle</i> (Sun Pharma)	5, 10, 20, 40 mg caps			85.50
Simvastatin – generic <i>Zocor</i> (Merck)	5, 10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs 10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs	Initial: 10-20 mg once/day ¹⁵ Maximum: 40 mg once/day ^{16,17}	35-40% 45-50%	2.90 138.60
<i>Flolipid</i> (Salerno)	20 mg/5 mL, 40 mg/5 mL susp			121.60

ER = extended-release; susp = suspension

1. FDA-approved dosage. Some expert clinicians use lower doses for initial treatment of patients with only modest elevations of LDL-C or a history of poor tolerance to these drugs. For patients who require a large reduction in LDL-C, some would use higher doses initially. Statins are generally most effective when taken in the evening. Dosage adjustments may be needed for patients with renal or hepatic impairment.
2. The listed ranges correspond to the initial and maximum dosages. Statin regimens that lower LDL-C $\geq 50\%$ are considered high-intensity therapy. Those that lower LDL-C 30-49% are considered moderate-intensity therapy, and those that lower LDL-C $< 30\%$ are considered low-intensity therapy. LDL-C reductions may vary significantly among individuals.
3. Approximate WAC for 30 days' treatment with the lowest usual initial adult dosage. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly, September 5, 2019. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2019. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.
4. The maximum dose of atorvastatin is 20 mg if taken with clarithromycin, itraconazole, saquinavir/ritonavir, darunavir/ritonavir, fosamprenavir, fosamprenavir/ritonavir, or elbasvir/grazoprevir and 40 mg if taken with nelfinavir.
5. The maximum dose of fluvastatin is 20 mg if taken with cyclosporine or fluconazole.
6. Or 40 mg bid.
7. Use doses > 20 mg/day cautiously in patients with severe renal impairment. The maximum dose of lovastatin is 20 mg if taken with danazol, diltiazem, dronedarone, or verapamil and 40 mg if taken with amiodarone.
8. The FDA considers *Livalo* and *Zypitamag* to be bioequivalent.
9. In patients with moderate or severe renal impairment and those on hemodialysis, 1 mg/day initially, 2 mg/day maximum. The maximum dose of pitavastatin is 1 mg if taken with erythromycin and 2 mg if taken with rifampin.
10. Patients with severe renal impairment should start with 10 mg/day.
11. The maximum dose of pravastatin is 20 mg if taken with cyclosporine and 40 mg if taken with clarithromycin.
12. Higher serum concentrations of rosuvastatin have been reported in Asian patients; an initial dose of 5 mg once daily is recommended. In patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HOFH), the initial dosage is 20 mg once/day.
13. Patients with severe renal impairment not on hemodialysis should start with 5 mg and not exceed 10 mg/day. The maximum dose of rosuvastatin is 5 mg if taken with cyclosporine and 10 mg if taken with atazanavir/ritonavir, lopinavir/ritonavir, or simeprevir.
14. Maximum dose is 20 mg/day in Asian patients.
15. Patients with severe renal impairment should start with 5 mg.
16. Patients who have taken 80 mg/day of simvastatin for ≥ 12 months without evidence of myopathy can continue at this dose.
17. The maximum dose of simvastatin is 10 mg if taken with diltiazem, dronedarone, or verapamil and 20 mg if taken with amiodarone, amlodipine, or ranolazine.

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