

# Statins induced myopathy

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# STATINS – INTRODUCTION

- Structural analogs of HMG –CoA REDUCTASE (3 hydroxy 3 methyl glutaryl coenzyme A) in the liver
- 1987 : first approved for the use in treatment of hypercholesterolemia
- Most effective agents for reducing plasma chol. level
- Benefit in prevention of primary and secondary CHD
- Reduce of mortality and morbidity
- Good tolerance

# STATINS - GENERATIONS

First generation (40-80 mg/day)

**lovastatin(mevacor- pro drug), simvastatin(zocor-  
pro drug), pravastatin(pravachol)**

Second generation(10-20 mg/day)

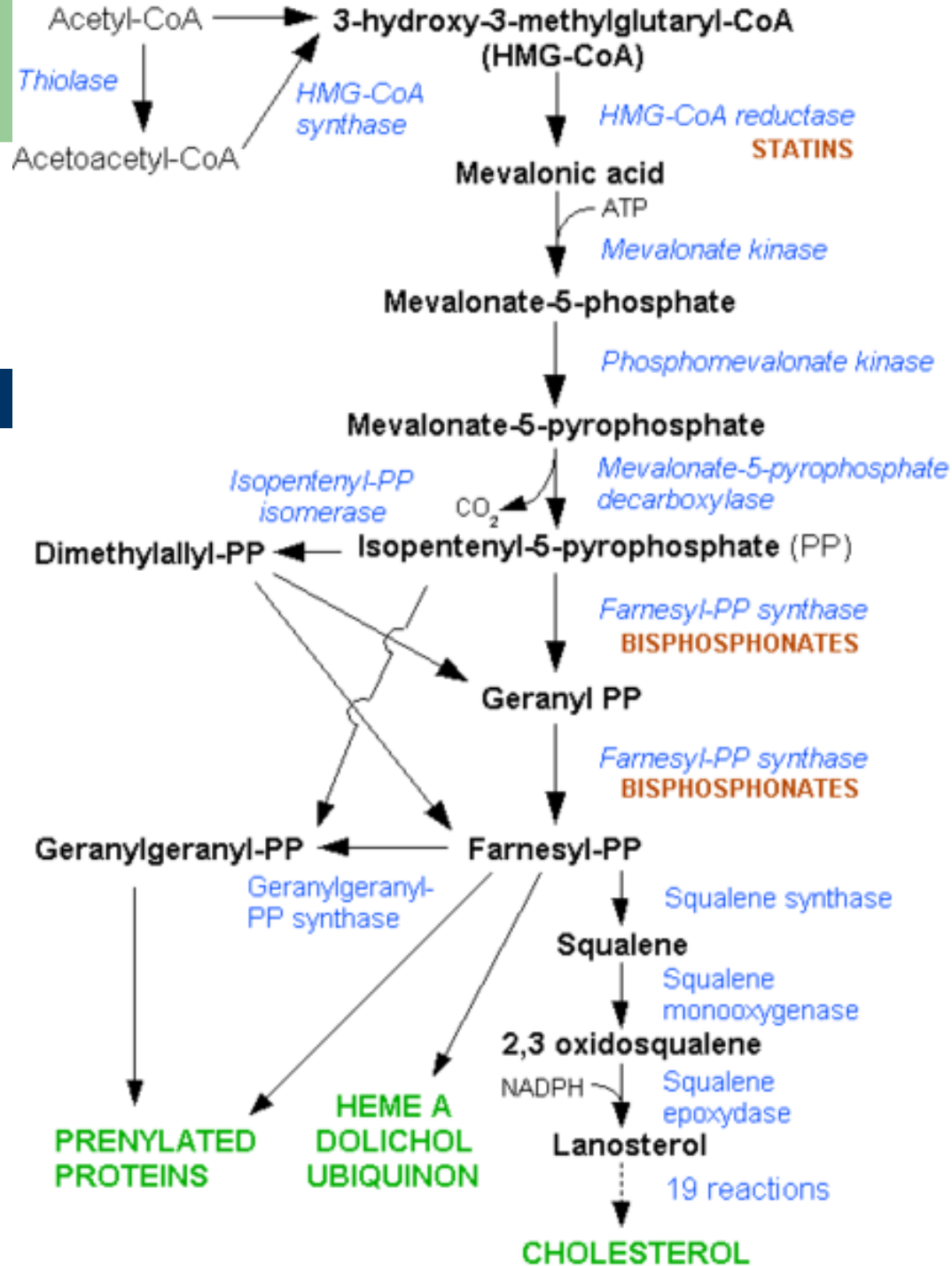
fluvastatin(lescol)

Third generation

**atorvastatin(lipitor), cerivastatin(Baycol),  
rosuvastatin(crestor)**

# STATINS – MECHANISM OF ACTION

- HMG-CoA reductase mediates the first committed step in the chol. biosynthesis. -
- Reversible binding -
- The active forms of the reductase inhibitors are structural analogs of HMG-CoA intermediate that is the precursor of mevalonate
- Mevalonate is the precursor for cholesterol. -
- Effect on other processes.



# STATINS – EFFECTS

- Reduction of endogenous intracellular cholesterol leads to increase in gene expression of LDL-R.
- Increase hepatic uptake of LDL and its precursors such as IDL and VLDL.
- inhibit hepatic synthesis of apolipoprotein B-100
- Increase in apolipoprotein E receptor productions

## STATINS – EFFECTS (cont.)

- inhibit hepatic synthesis of apolipoprotein B-100
- Increase in apolipoprotein E receptor productions
- Anti oxidation effect and inhibition of the scavenger receptors expression
- Improvement of endothel function (NO)
- reduce smooth muscle proliferation

# STATINS – METABOLISM

- LIVER IS THE TARGET ORGAN
- METABOLISED BY THE CITOCHROM P450 PATHWAY
- CYP2C9 – FLUVASTATIN
- CYP3A4 - ATORVASTATIN, LOVASTATIN, SIMVASTATIN
- Non p450 – PRAVASTATIN

Many drug interactions!



# STATINS – ADVERSE EFFECT

- Myotoxic! -  
symptoms ranging from fatigue, weakness, and pain to symptoms associated with rhabdomyolysis.
- Constipation
- Flatulence
- Dyspepsia
- Nausea
- Gastrointestinal pain
- Peripheral neuropathy

# STATINS -

## Mechanism of Statin-Induced myotoxicity

### 1. Depletion of secondary metabolic intermediates:

- ↓ Mevalonate metabolite
- ↓ Ubiquinone (CoQ10)

lipid soluble electron carrier in membrane-bound electron transport chain of mitochondria (ATP)

Mitochondrial dysfunction

- Instability and Disruption of plasma membrane
- Unstable action potential (Na/K channel)

# STATINS -

## Mechanism of Statin-Induced myotoxicity (cont. )

### 2. Induction of apoptotic cell death:

(also pleiotropic benefits ! – tumor cells,  
cardiac hypertrophy)

Downstream isoprenoid molecules depletion  
leads → cytosolic calcium increase → BAX  
translocate into the mitochondria – release of  
cytochrome c → casp 9  
→ casp 3 activation

# STATINS -

## Mechanism of Statin-Induced myotoxicity (cont. )

### **3. Alteration of chloride channel conductance within the myocyte:**

Simvastatin: ↓20% chloride conductance

block Cl channel → muscle contraction →  
cramping/myalgia

# Factors that increase the risk of a statin induced myopathy

Myotoxicity is dose dependant

Patient:

- Increased age, female sex, renal insufficiency, hepatic dysfunction, drug interactions.

Statin properties:

High systemic exposure, lipophilicity, high bioavailability, limited protein binding,

*Potential for drug-drug interactions metabolized by CYP pathways (CYP3A4) !*

# STATINS – DRUG INTERACTIONS

## CYP3A4

Cyclosporin

Macrolide

SSRIs

CCB

Protease inhibitors

Azole anti fungal

Fibrate

- LOVASTATIN, SIMVASTATIN, ATORVASTATIN.

# STATINS – DRUG INTERACTIONS

## CYP2C9

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Azole anti fungal

Metronidazole

Amiodarone

Cimetidine

- FLUVASTATIN

# STATINS – DRUG INTERACTIONS

NIACIN:

Nicotinic acid , vit B3.

FIBRATES:

- Potent TG lowering effect
  - Some fibrates are metabolized by CYP3A4, CYP2C8
- Gemfibrozil interacts with statins > other fibrates -



## STATINS – CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION

- Before initiating statin: identify comorbid risk factors for develop myopathy
- Baseline CK measurement in whom prescribed statin (and then every 6-12 month) – if signs of myopathy measure.
- Statin therapy should be initiate in low dose
- Patient education

# AHA/ACC/NHLBI clinical recommendations for statin myotoxicity

	CK levels	Clinical recommendations
Symptomatic patient	>10 Times normal	Discontinuation of statin therapy
	Normal levels or moderate elevation (3–10 times normal)	Follow-up of patient's symptoms and CK weekly
	Progressive CK elevation on serial measurements	Decrease in statin dose or temporary discontinuation of statin therapy
Asymptomatic patient	>10 Times normal	Strong consideration of discontinuing statin therapy
	Moderate elevation (3–10 times normal)	Patients can usually continue treatment with no harm. Frequent and careful monitoring of symptoms and CK

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**

