

Food and Drug Administration Rockville, MD 20857

TRANSMITTED VIA FACSIMILE

Rita A. Wittich
Vice President, Worldwide Regulatory Strategy
Regulatory Affairs
Pfizer Inc
235 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

RE: NDA #20-702

Lipitor (atorvastatin calcium) Tablets

MACMIS ID# 9607

Dear Ms. Wittich:

This letter concerns a journal advertisement (BC121A00) for Lipitor (atorvastatin calcium) tablets disseminated by Pfizer Inc. As part of its routine monitoring program, the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC) has reviewed this journal advertisement and concluded it is false or misleading, in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Act) and its implementing regulations. Our specific objections follow:

Promotion of Unapproved Use

The first 6 pages of this 8-page journal advertisement (ad) contain pictures of different patients who are apparent "candidates for Lipitor" with the following "name tags" and additional information:

- HELLO I have hyperlipidemia plus...A CHD risk factor
- HELLO I have hyperlipidemia plus...A family history of early CHD
 A family history of hypercholesterolemia can triple the risk of CHD prior to age 60
- HELLO I have hyperlipidemia plus...Hypertension Controlled hypertension is still a risk for CHD
- HELLO I have hyperlipidemia plus...I'm over 45
 CHD risk in men aged 45 is about 2 times greater than in men aged 35
- HELLO I have hyperlipidemia plus...Diabetes Mellitus Diabetes can increase the risk of CHD by 300%
- HELLO I have hyperlipidemia plus...I smoke Smoking can approximately double the risk of developing CHD

In addition, the following claims are presented on page 7:

- Recognize their risk factors and you've just met another candidate for LIPITOR
- Elevated LDL-C combined with even one risk factor increases the threat of CHD (along with the CHD risk factor table)
- Confident LDL-C reduction for patients at risk

As a result of presenting such claims, the journal ad creates an overwhelming impression that Lipitor is indicated to reduce the risk of developing coronary heart disease (CHD). However, the effect of Lipitor on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality has not been established, and Lipitor is not indicated to reduce the risk of developing CHD. As provided in the approved product labeling (PI), Lipitor is indicated "as an adjunct to diet to reduce elevated total-C, LDL-C, apo B, and TG levels and to increase HDL-C in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia and mixed dyslipidemia." Your presentation of the indication on the bottom of page 6 in paragraph format and in small font size, and the disclaimer that "the effect of LIPITOR on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality has not been determined" on page 7, also in small font size, are inadequate to overcome the overall misleading promotional message created by the ad (i.e., that Lipitor is indicated to reduce the risk of developing CHD). Therefore, the journal ad is misleading because it promotes Lipitor for an unapproved use.

Lack of Fair Balance

The journal ad is misleading because it fails to present important information concerning the risks associated with Lipitor with a prominence and readability reasonably comparable to the presentation relating to the effectiveness of the drug. For example, you present efficacy claims such as "Lipitor provides impressive LDL-C reductions," "72% of patients reached their NCEP LDL-C goal at 10 mg," and "Powerful effect on lipid parameters" as large headers that are bolded for further emphasis. You also present specific reductions in LDL-C, TG, and HDL-C very prominently by the use of bolding and large type size. In contrast, important risk information is presented in small type size on the bottom of page 6 and is further de-emphasized by its presentation in paragraph form without any header or signal to alert readers to its importance. Therefore, the journal ad lacks fair balance taking into account implementing factors such as layout, paragraphing, white space, and other techniques apt to achieve emphasis.

Broadening of Indication

The **Indications and Usage** section of the PI states, "Lipid-altering agents should be used in addition to a diet restricted in saturated fat and cholesterol only when the response to diet and other nonpharmacological measures has been

inadequate." Your advertisement contains prominent claims about Lipitor's usefulness, such as "Lipitor provides impressive LDL-C reduction." However, you have minimized important information regarding the approved indication for Lipitor. Specifically, the indication statement is presented at the bottom of page 6 in paragraph format and a small font size, making it difficult to read. Moreover, the disclaimer "when diet and exercise fail" is also presented in a much smaller font size than the claims describing Lipitor's use. As a result, the advertisement suggests that all patients, including those with high cholesterol who have not tried to lower cholesterol using diet and exercise, are candidates for Lipitor. Therefore, the ad is misleading because it broadens the approved indication by minimizing information about the correct use of Lipitor.

In order to address these objections, you should immediately cease distribution of this journal ad immediately and all other promotional materials for Lipitor that contain the same or similar claims or presentations. You should respond in writing by July 26, 2001, with your intent and plans to comply with this request. Your response should include a list of materials discontinued, and the date on which these materials were discontinued.

If you have any further questions, please direct them to me by facsimile at 301-594-6771 or at the Food and Drug Administration, Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications, HFD-42, Rm 17B-20, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

We remind you that only written communications are considered official. In all future correspondence regarding this particular matter please refer to MACMIS ID #9607 in addition to the NDA number.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Andrew S.T. Haffer, Pharm.D. Regulatory Review Officer Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

Andrew Haffer 7/12/01 01:34:15 PM

I have hyperlipidem

A CHD risk tactor

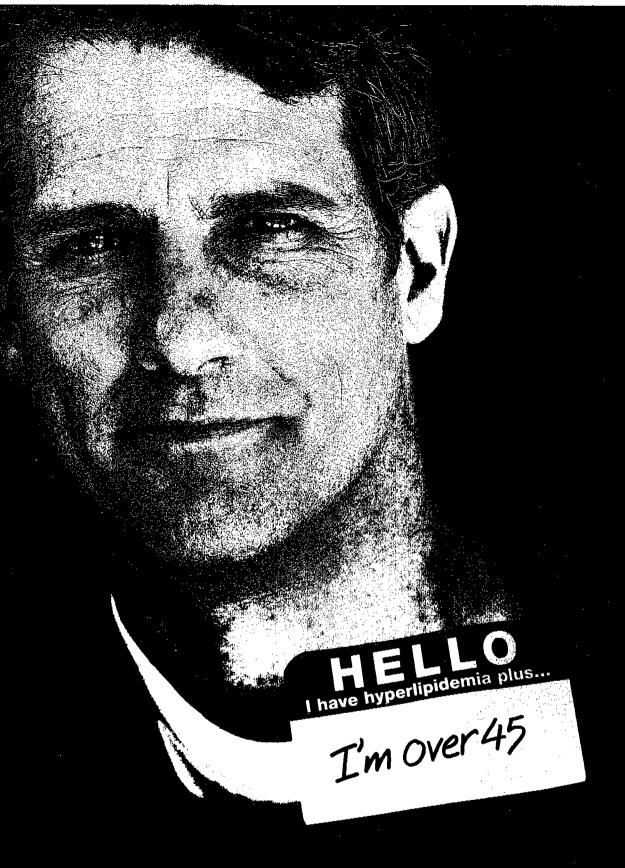


A family history of

hypercholesterolemia can triple the risk of CHD prior to age 601



Controlled hypertension is <u>still</u> a risk for CHD²



CHD risk in men aged 45 is about 2 times greater than in men aged 35



Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes can increase the risk of CHD by 300%



Smoking can approximately double the risk of developing CHD³

LIPITOR is indicated as an adjunct to diet to reduce elevated total-C, LDL-C, apoB, and TG levels and to increase HDL-C in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and nonfamilial) and mixed dyslipidemia.

In clinical trials, the most common adverse events were constipation, flatulence, dyspepsia, and abdominal pain.

It is recommended that liver function tests be performed prior to and at 12 weeks following both the initiation of therapy and any elevation of dose, and periodically thereafter.

I have hyperlipidemia

I SMOKE

LIPITOR is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to any component of this medication; in patients with active liver disease or unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases; in women during pregnancy and in nursing mothers.

V/ith any statin, tell patients to promptly report muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness. Discontinue drug if myopathy is suspected, if creatine phosphokinase (CPK) levels rise markedly, or if the patient has risk factors for rhabdomyolysis.

Recognize their risk factors and you've ust met another candidate for LIPITOR*

*When diet and exercise fail.

Based on information from the Framingham Heart Study.

The impact on clinical outcomes of the differences in lipid-altering effects between these treatments is not known. These studies did not compare the effects of LIPITOR 10 mg and higher doses of Zocor*, Pravachol*, and

A multicenter, double-blind study of all hypercholesterolemic

patients taking LIPITOR (10 mg, N=707) for 16 weeks. Baseline lipid level: 192 mg/dL. Target

NCEP LDL-C goal based on CHD

risk status, percentage of patients

risk status, percentage of patients reaching goal, and total number of patients: <2 CHD risk factors, <160 mg/dL, 95%, N=329; ≥2 CHD risk factors, <130 mg/dL, 67%, N=268; with CHD, ≤100 mg/dL, 18%, N=110.³

Mevacor (lovastatin) and Zocor

Elevated LDL-C combined with even one risk factor increases the threat of CHD^{3†}

CHD RISK **FACTORS**

Diabetes mellitus

Smoking

Low HDL-C

Family history of early CHD

Hypertension

*Male ≥45 years; female ≥55 years or premature menopause without estrogen replacement therapy.

NCEP LDL-C goals are lower for patients with multiple CHD risk factors.2

The effect of LIPITOR on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality has not been determined.

LIPITOR provides impressive LDL-C reduction⁴

More power to reduce LDL-C at the 10-mg starting dose than Zocor* 10 mg, Pravachol* 20 mg, and Mevacor* 20 mg in head-to-head trials 575

72% of patients reached their NCEP LDL-C goal at 10 mg³

In a large clinical trial, the majority of patients reached goal at the 10-mg starting dose

Powerful effect on lipid parameters



(simvastatin) are registered trademarks of Merck & Co. Inc; Pravachol (pravastatin sodium) is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. Please see references and brief summary of prescribing information on adjacent page.



Confident LDL-C reduction for patients at risk.

References: 1. Castelli WP Epidemiology of coronary heart disease: The Framingham Study. Am J Med.1984/6:4-12. 2. Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults. Summary of the second report of the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) expert panel on detection, evaluation, and treatment of high blood cholesterol in adults (Adult Treatment Panel III). Circulation, 1994;89:1329-1445, 3. Data on file, Pficer Inc., New York, NY. 4. Jones P. Kalonek S., Lauron I. Hunninghake D., for the CURVES in Westigators. Comparative dose efficacy study of atomastatin versus sinvastatin, lovastatin, and "fuvastatin in patients with hypercholesterolemia, (the CURVES Study). Am J Cardiol. 1998;81:582-587. 5. Datt A., Jerums G., Nicholson G., et al. A multicenter, double-blind, one-year study of comparing safety and efficacy of atomastatin versus surroastatin in patients with hypercholesterolemia. Am J Cardiol. 1997;80:191-197. 7. Davidson M. McKerney J., Stein E., et al., for the 4tomastatin Study Group I. Comparison of one-year efficacy and safety of atomastatin versus lovastatin in primary hypercholesterolemia. Am J Cardiol. 1997;79:1475-1481.

LIPITOR® (Atorvastatin Calcium) Tablets

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Active liver disease or unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases. Hypersensitivity to any component of this medication. Pregnaccy and Lactation — Atherosclerosis is a chronic process and discontinuation of lipid-lowering drugs during pregnancy should have little impact on the outcome of long-term therapy of primary hypercholesterolemia. Cholesteral and other products of cholesterol biosynthesis are essential components for fetal development (including synthesis of steroids and cell membranes). Since HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors decrease cholesterol synthesis and possibly the synthesis of other-biologically active substances derived from cholesterol, they may cause fetal harm when administered to preparant women. Therefore, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors are contraindicated during pregnancy and in nursing mothers. ATORVASTATIN SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED TO WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE ONLY WHEN SUCH PATIENTS ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELYTO CONCEIVE AND HAVE BEEN INFORMEO OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS. If the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, therapy should be discontinued and the patient apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus.

GEEN INFORMED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZAROS. If the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, therapy should be discontinued and the patient apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus.

WARNINGS: Liver Dysfunction — HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, like some other lipid-lowering therapies, have been associated with biochemical abnormalities of liver function. Persistent elevations (>3 times the upper limit of normal (ULN) occurring on 2 or more occasions) in serum transaminases occurred in 0.7% of patients who received atorvastatin in clinical trials. The incidence of these abnormalities and 2.7%, 0.65%, and 2.3% for 10, 20, 40, and 80 mg, respectively. One patient in clinical trials developed atundice. Increases in liver function tests (LFT) in other patients were not associated with jaundice or other clinical signs or symptoms. Upon dose reduction, drug interruption, or discontinuation, transaminase levels returned to or near pretreatment levels without sequelae. Eighteen of 30 patients with persistent LFT elevations continued treatment with a reduced dose of atorvastatin. It is recommended that liver function tests be performed prior to and at 12 weeks following both the initiation of therapy and any elevation of dose, and periodically (e.g. semianually) thereafter. Liver enzyme changes generally occur in the first 3 months of treatment with atorvastatin. Patients who develop increased transaminase levels should be monitored until the abnormalities resolves. Should an increase in ALT or AST of 3 times ULN persist, reduction of dose or withdrawal of attorvastatin is recommended. Altorvastatin should be used with caution in patients who consume substantial quantities of alcohol and/or have a history of liver disease. Active liver disease or unexplained persistent transaminase elevations are contraundications to the use of attorvastatin (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). Skeletal Muscle — Rhabdomyolysis with acute renal failure secondary to myoglobinuria has been reported with other drugs in this class: loncomplication

discontinued in any patient with an acute, serious condition suggestive of a myopathy or baving a risk factor profisposing to the development of renal failure secondary to habdomyplasis leg, severe acute infection, hypotension, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine and electrolyre disorders, and uncantrolled seizures).

PRECAUTIONS: General — Before instituting therapy with atorvastain, an attempt should be made to control hypercholestrolerism with appropriate diel, exercise, and veight reduction in obose pariens, and to treat other underlying medical problems (see INDICATIONS AND USAGE in full prescribing information, Information for Patients — Patients should be advised to report promptly unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly if accompanied by malaise of fever. Drug Interactions — The risk of myopathy during treatment with other drugs of this class is increased with concurrent administration of cyclosporine, fibric acid derivatives, niacin (incoinic acid), erythromycin, azole antifungals (see WARNINIOS). Skeletal Muscle). Antacid: When atorvastatian and Malaiox TC suspension were coadministered, plasma concentrations of atorvastatin decreased approximately 35%. However, LDL-C reduction was not attered. Antipyrine: Because atorvastation does not affect the pharmacokinetics of antipyrine, interactions with other drugs metabolized via the same cytochrome isosymes are not expected. Colestings in Patients of activation decreased approximately 25% when colestipol was activated and thinistered. However, LDL-C reduction was greater when atorvastatin and colestipol was activated and thinistered. However, LDL-C reduction was greater when atorvastatin in a concentrations and LDL-C reduction were not altered by occasions. Profit of the pharmacokinetists of a concentrations and LDL-C reduction were not altered by occasions. Profit of the pharmacokinetists of the pharmacokinetists of the pharmacokinetists of the profit of the pharmacokinetists of the pharmacokinetists of the pharmacok

histopathology in dogs given doses of 10, 40, or 120 mg/kg for two years. Pregnancy — Pregnancy Category X: See CONTRAINDICATIONS. Safety in pregnant women has not been established. Atorvastatin crosses the rat placenta and reaches a level in fetal liver equivalent to that of maternal plasma. Atorvastatin was not teratogenic in rats at doses up to 300 mg/kg/day or in rabbits at doses up to 100 mg/kg/day. These doses resulted in multiples of about 30 times (rat) or 20 times (rabbit) the human exposure based on surface area (mg/m²). In a study in rats given 20, 100, or 225 mg/kg/day, from gestation day 7 through to lactation day 21 (wearing), there was decreased pup survival at birth, neonate, wearing, and maturity in pups of mothers dosed with 225 mg/kg/day, Body weight was decreased on days 4 and 21 in pups of mothers dosed at 100 mg/kg/day, pup body weight was decreased at birth and at days 4, 21, and 91 at 225 mg/kg/day. Pup development was delayed (rotorod performance at 100 mg/kg/day and acoustic startle at 225 mg/kg/day; pinnae detachiment and eve opening at 225 mg/kg/day. These doses correspond to 6 times (100 mg/kg) and 22 times (225 mg/kg) the human AUC at 80 mg/day, flar resports of congenital anomalies have been received following intrauterine exposure to HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors. There has been one report of severe congenital bony deformity trachen-esophageal fistula, and anal attresia (VATER association) in a baby born to a woman who took lovastatin with dextroamphetamine sulfate during the first trimester of pregnancy. LPITOR

pregnancy, LPITOR stood or the potential nazards. If the woman becomes pregnant while taking conceive and have been informed of the potential nazards. If the woman becomes pregnant while taking LPITOR, it should be discontinued and the patient advised again as to the potential hazards to the fetus. Nursing Moders — Nursing rat pups had plasma and liver drug levels of 50% and 40%, respectively, of that in their mother's milk. Because of the potential for adverse reactions in nursing infants, women taking LPITOR should not breast-feed (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). Pediatric Use — Treatment experience in a pediatric population is limited to doses of LPITOR up to 80 mg/day for 1 year in 8 patients with homozygous FH. No clinical or biochemical abnormalities were reported in these patients. None of these patients was below 9 years of age. Beriatric Use — Treatment experience in adults age ≥70 years with doses of LIPITOR up to 80 mg/day has been evaluated in 221 patients. The safety and efficacy of LIPITOR in this population were similar to those of patients <70 years of age.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: UPITOR is generally well-tolerated. Adverse reactions have usually been mild and transient. In controlled clinical studies of 2502 patients, <2% of patients were discontinued due to adverse experiences attributable to atrovastatin. The most frequent adverse events thought to be related to atorvastatin were constipation, flatulence, dyspepsia, and abdominal pain. Clinical Adverse Experiences—Adverse experiences reported in ≥2% of patients in placebo-controlled clinical studies of atorvastatin, recoardless of causality assessment are shown in the following table.

regardless of causality assessment, are shown in the following table. Adverse Events in Placebo-Controlled Studies (% of Patients) BODY SYSTEM Placebo Appropriation Appropriation Appropriation Appropriation Appropriation				
Adverse Event				80 mg
N = 270	N = 863	N = 36	N = 79	N = 94
	10.3	2.8	10.1	7.4
7.0	5.4	16.7	2.5	6.4
3.7	4.2	0.0	1.3	3.2
1.9	2.2	0.0		3.2
0.7	2.8	0.0		2.1
3.0	2.8	0.0		1.1
2.6	0.9			0.0
1.9				0.0
			0.0	0.0
1.8	2.1	0.0	25	1,1
1,5	2.7			5.3
4.1	23			21
3.3				1.1
		2.0	1.0	1.1
26	2.8	0.0	25	6.4
15				2.1
		0.0	1.0	41
	3.9	28	3.9	1,1
			3.0	1.1
	20	0.0	5.1	0.0
				0.0
	Adverse Ever Placebo N = 270 10.0 7.0 3.7 1.9 0.7 3.0 2.6 1.9 1.8 1.5 4.1 3.3	Adverse Events in Placebo Co Placebo	Adverse Events in Placebo Controlled Studies (% Placebo Attorvastatin 10 mg N = 220 mg N = 863 Attorvastatin 20 mg N = 36 10.0 10.33 2.8 7.0 5.4 16.7 3.7 4.2 0.0 0.7 2.8 0.0 3.0 2.8 0.0 2.6 0.9 2.8 1.9 2.2 0.0 1.5 2.7 0.0 1.5 2.7 0.0 4.1 2.3 2.8 2.8 0.0 1.5 2.8 0.0 1.5 2.7 0.0 1.5 2.8 0.0 1.5 2.8 0.0 1.5 2.5 0.0 0.0	Adverse Events in Placebo - Controlled Studies (% of Patients) Placebo Attorvastatin Attorvastatin 10 mg 20 mg M = 79

The following adverse events were reported, regardless of causality assessment in patients treated with above statin in clinical trials. The events in italics occurred in $\geq 2\%$ of patients and the events in plain type occurred 10% of patients.

Body as a Whole: Chest pain, face edema, fever, neck rigidity, malaisa, photosensitivity reaction, generalized edema. Digestive System: Nausea, gastroenteritis, liver function tests abnormal, colitis,

occurred in 2% of patients.

Body as a Whole: Chest pain, face edema, fever, neck rigidity, malaise, photosensitivity reaction, generalized edema. Digestive System: Nausea, gastroenteritis, liver function tests abnormal, colitis, vomiting, gastritis, and provided the provided system. Nausea, gastroenteritis, liver function tests abnormal, colitis, vomiting, gastritis, dry mouth, rectal hemorrhage, esophagitis, eructation, glossitis, mouth ulceration, anorexia, increased appetite, stomatis, beliary pain, chelifitis, duodenal ulcer, dysphagia, enteritis, melena, gum temorrhage, stomach ulcer, tenesmus, ulcerative stomatitis, hepatitis, pancreatitis, cholestatic jaundice. Respiratory System: Bronchitis, rhimitis, pneumonia, dyspnea, asthma, epistaxis. Nervous System: Insomnia, dizuzness, paresthesia, somnolence, amnesia, abnormal dreams, libido decreased, emotional lability, incoordination, peripheral neuropathy, torticollis, facial paralysis, hyperkinesia, depression, hypesthesia, hypertonia, Mussculoskeletal System. Arthritis, leg cramps, burstitis, tenosynovitis, myasthenia, tendinous contracture, myositis. Skin and Appendages: Pruritus, contact dermatitis, alopecia, dry skin, sweating, acne, criticaria, eczerna, seborrhea, skin ulcer. Urogenital System: Urinary tract infection, urinary requency, cystitis, hematuria, impotence, dysuria, kidney calculus, noturina, epididymitis, fibrocystic breast, vaginal hemorrhage, albuminurina, breast enlargement, metrorrhagia, epidiminis, fibrocystic breast, vaginal hemorrhage, albuminurina, breast enlargement, metrorrhagia, nephritis, urinary incominence, urinary retention, urinary urgency, abnormal ejaculus, noturina hemorrhage, albuminurina, breast enlargement, metrorrhagia, nephritis, urinary incominence, urinary retention, urinary urgency, abnormal ejaculus, noturina hemorrhage, albuminurina, breast enlargement, metrorrhagia, nephritis, urinary incominence, urinary retention, urinary urgency, abnormal ejaculus, noturina hemorrhage, albuminurina, breasterial system: Palp

OVERDOSAGE: There is no specific treatment for atorvastatin overdosage. In the event of an overdose, the patient should be treated symptomatically, and supportive measures instituted as required. Due to extensive drug binding to plasma proteins, hemodialysis is not expected to significantly enhance atorvastatin clearance.

Consult package insert before prescribing LIPITOR® (Atorvastatin Calcium) Tablets.

R only

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PARKE-DAVIS

Div of Warner-Lambert Co Morris Plains, NJ 07950 USA MADE IN PUERTO RICO

Marketed h Div of Warner-Lambert Co and PFIZER Inc. New York, NY 10017 0155G247



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