PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

Sandoz Rosuvastatin
Rosuvastatin calcium tablets as rosuvastatin 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg and 40 mg

This leaflet is part of a "Product Monograph" published when Sandoz Rosuvastatin was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about Sandoz Rosuvastatin. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What Sandoz Rosuvastatin is used for:
Your doctor has prescribed these pills to help lower your cholesterol or other fats in the blood (such as triglycerides) and lower the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

What Sandoz Rosuvastatin does:
Sandoz Rosuvastatin belongs to the class of medications known as "statins", more specifically called HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors. HMG-CoA reductase is an enzyme involved in regulating cholesterol levels in your body. Statins are used along with changes to diet and exercise to help control the amount of cholesterol produced by the body.

Sandoz Rosuvastatin can help your body:
- Decrease LDL (bad) cholesterol and triglyceride levels.
- Increase HDL (good) cholesterol levels.
- Decrease the Total Cholesterol/HDL-Cholesterol Ratio (TC: HDL-C Ratio). The ratio represents the balance between good and bad cholesterol.

What is cholesterol?
Cholesterol is one of several fatty substances in the blood that the body needs to function. And it is important to our health. Our bodies use cholesterol in a number of ways; for example, to produce bile acids that help you digest fat.

High cholesterol levels may not make you feel or look sick. However, too much cholesterol in your blood can be unhealthy; it builds up on the artery walls and can lead to the signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease (heart disease).

There are two very different types of cholesterol.

LDL cholesterol
If levels of LDL cholesterol are too high, they can cause the gradual build-up of cholesterol called plaque on the walls of the blood vessels. Over time, this plaque can build up so much that it narrows the arteries. Narrow arteries can slow or block blood flow to vital organs like the heart and brain. Blocked blood flow can result in a heart attack or stroke.

HDL cholesterol
HDL carries the LDL cholesterol away from the blood vessel walls to the liver, where it can be removed from the body. A higher level of HDL cholesterol is good.

Important cholesterol targets
There are a few important measures that relate to your cholesterol. In addition to your HDL and LDL cholesterol, your doctor may also track your TC:HDL-C Ratio.

Lowering LDL cholesterol and Ratio
There are many things you can do, depending on your health and lifestyle, to help lower LDL cholesterol, increase HDL cholesterol and lower your TC: HDL-C Ratio. Your doctor may recommend:
- A change in your diet to control your weight and/or lower your cholesterol.
- Exercise that is right for you.
- Quitting smoking and avoiding smoky places.
- Giving up alcohol or drinking less.

Follow your doctor’s instructions carefully.

When Sandoz Rosuvastatin should not be used:
Do not take Sandoz Rosuvastatin if you:
- Currently have liver disease.
- Are pregnant or think you might be pregnant. If you become pregnant while taking Sandoz Rosuvastatin, discontinue use immediately and discuss with your doctor, as Sandoz Rosuvastatin should not be used by pregnant women.
- Are breast-feeding.
- Have ever had an allergic reaction to the active ingredient or any of the other ingredients in Sandoz Rosuvastatin. (see What the nonmedicinal ingredients are;)
- Are taking a drug called cyclosporine (used, for example, after organ transplant).

What the medicinal ingredient is:
Rosuvastatin calcium.

What the non-medicinal ingredients are:
Each Sandoz Rosuvastatin 5 mg tablet contains non-medicinal ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, corn starch, hypromellose, lactose anhydrous, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, sodium stearyl fumarate, talc, titanium dioxide and ferric oxide yellow.

Each Sandoz Rosuvastatin 10 mg, 20 mg and 40 mg tablet contains nonmedicinal ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, corn starch, hypromellose, lactose anhydrous, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, sodium stearyl fumarate, t alc, titanium dioxide, ferric oxide red and ferric oxide yellow.

What dosage form it comes in:
Sandoz Rosuvastatin Film Coated Tablets 5 mg, 10 mg and 20 mg are available as blisters 30 tablets per box, and as bottles of 100 and bottles of 500 tablets.
Sandoz Rosuvastatin Film Coated Tablets 40 mg is available as blisters 30 tablets per box, and as bottles of 100 tablets.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

**Pregnancy**
Sandoz Rosuvastatin should not be used by pregnant women. Cholesterol compounds are essential elements for the development of a fetus. Cholesterol-lowering drugs can harm the fetus. If you become pregnant, discontinue use immediately and tell your doctor.

If you are of childbearing age, discuss with your doctor the potential risks and the importance of birth control methods.

Before taking your Sandoz Rosuvastatin tablets, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- Have thyroid problems.
- Regularly drink *three or more* alcoholic drinks daily.
- Have a family history of muscular disorders.
- Had any past problems with your muscles (pain, tenderness) due to using HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) such as atorvastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin or simvastatin, or have developed an allergy or intolerance to them.
- Have kidney or liver problems.
- Have diabetes.
- Have undergone surgery or other tissue injury.
- Do excessive physical exercise.

Slightly increased blood sugar can occur when you take Sandoz Rosuvastatin. You are likely to be at risk of developing diabetes if you have high levels of sugar and fats in your blood, are overweight and have high blood pressure. Discuss with the doctor your risk of developing diabetes.

**INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**

Sometimes drugs can interact with other drugs, so tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medications, including prescription, non-prescription and natural health products. In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:

- Any other cholesterol-lowering medications such as fibrates (gemfibrozil, fenofibrate), niacin or ezetimibe.
- Warfarin, clopidogrel (or any other drug for thinning the blood).
- Antiviral medications such as ritonavir combined with another protease inhibitor or simeprevir (used to fight infections, including the HIV infection or Hepatitis C infection).
- Antacids (frequent use) and Sandoz Rosuvastatin should be taken 2 hours apart.
- Cyclosporine (used after organ transplant).
- Fusidic acid (an antibiotic agent). Your doctor may temporarily stop your treatment of Sandoz Rosuvastatin until the treatment with fusidic acid is complete.

**PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION**

Your doctor prescribed this medicine only for you. Do not give your medicine to anyone else because it may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

Always follow your doctor's instructions carefully and keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

- Swallow each tablet whole with a drink of water. Take Sandoz Rosuvastatin as a single dose.
- Remember to take Sandoz Rosuvastatin at the same time every day. It does not matter if you take Sandoz Rosuvastatin with or without food, or in the morning or evening.
- Do not change the dose or stop taking the medicine without first talking to your doctor.
- If you get sick, have an operation, or need medical treatment while you are taking Sandoz Rosuvastatin, let the doctor or pharmacist know that you are taking Sandoz Rosuvastatin.
- If you have to see a different doctor, for any reason, be sure to tell him/her of any medicines you might be taking, including Sandoz Rosuvastatin.

Remember to get a new prescription from your doctor or a refill from your pharmacy a few days before all your tablets are taken.

**Usual dose:**

**Adults**
Treatment with Sandoz Rosuvastatin is usually started with one 10 mg tablet taken once daily. Some people may be asked to start treatment with one 5 mg tablet taken once a day while others may be asked to start with one 20 mg tablet taken once a day.

After checking the amount of lipids in your blood, your doctor may decide to adjust your dose until you are taking the amount of Sandoz Rosuvastatin that is right for you. The maximum daily dose is 40 mg.

**Overdose:**
There is no specific treatment in the event of an overdose.

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

**Missed dose:**

**Do not take a double dose.** If you miss taking a tablet, take it as soon as you can. But if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and just take the next dose.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Most people do not have side effects when taking rosuvastatin calcium. However, all medicines can cause unwanted side effects. These effects are usually mild and disappear after a short time.
Check with your doctor or pharmacist promptly if any of the following persist or become troublesome:

- Stomach pain
- Headache
- Constipation
- Dizziness
- Feeling sick

Less commonly, some people may have other side effects such as a skin rash, itching and hives.

Sandoz Rosuvastatin can cause abnormal blood test results. Your doctor will decide when to perform blood tests and will interpret the results.

Possible side effects reported with some statins: breathing problems including persistent cough and/or shortness of breath or fever; confusion, poor memory, mood problems including depression; problems sleeping including insomnia and nightmares; erectile dysfunction; numbness, tingling, weakness or pain, usually in your hands or feet, but this may also occur in other areas of your body (peripheral neuropathy).

### SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom/Effect</th>
<th>Talk with your doctor or pharmacist</th>
<th>Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liver damage: yellowing of the skin or eyes, flu-like symptoms</td>
<td>Only if severe</td>
<td>In all cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflamed pancreas (pancreatitis) symptoms, such as severe stomach pain</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Memory loss</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased blood sugar: frequent urination, thirst and hunger</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Decrease of platelets in the blood (characterized by easy or Excessive bleeding such as bruising easily, nosebleed and bleeding gums)</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking Sandoz Rosuvastatin, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

### HOW TO STORE IT

- KEEP YOUR TABLETS IN A SAFE PLACE where children cannot see or reach them. Your tablets could harm them.
- Keep your medicine at room temperature between 15°C and 30°C, away from warm or damp places like bathrooms or kitchens.
- Keep your tablets in the package they came in.
- If your doctor decides to stop your treatment, return your tablets to your pharmacist for disposal.
- Do not take your tablets after the expiry date on the package.
REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

- Report online at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:
  - Fax toll free to 1-866-678-6789
  - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program
  - Health Canada
  - Postal Locator 0701E
  - Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guideline are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Website at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect

Note: Should you require information related to the management of the side effect, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

NOTE: This INFORMATION FOR THE CONSUMER leaflet provides you with the most current information at the time of printing.

This document, plus the full Product Monograph prepared for health professionals, can be obtained by contacting the sponsor, Sandoz Canada Inc., at: 1-800-361-3062

or

by written request at:
145, Jules-Léger
Boucherville, (QC), Canada
J4B 7K8

or by e-mail at: medinfo@sandoz.com

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