

## **SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

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### 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

**ATROX 10**, 10 mg, film-coated tablets

**ATROX 20**, 20 mg, film-coated tablets

**ATROX 40**, 40 mg, film-coated tablets

**ATROX 80**, 80 mg, film-coated tablets

### 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

#### Atrox 10:

Each film-coated tablet contains 10 mg atorvastatin (*Atorvastatinum*) as 10,34 mg atorvastatin calcium .

#### Atrox 20:

Each film-coated tablet contains 20 mg atorvastatin (*Atorvastatinum*) as 20.68 mg atorvastatin calcium .

#### Atrox 40:

Each film-coated tablet contains 40 mg atorvastatin (*Atorvastatinum*) as 41.36 mg atorvastatin calcium .

#### Atrox 80:

Each film-coated tablet contains 80 mg atorvastatin (*Atorvastatinum*) as 82.72 mg atorvastatin calcium .

#### **Excipient with known effect:**

Each film-coated tablet of Atrox 10 contains lactose monohydrate 38.12 mg.

Each film-coated tablet of Atrox 20 contains lactose monohydrate 76.24 mg.

Each film-coated tablet of Atrox 40 contains lactose monohydrate 152.47 mg.

Each film-coated tablet of Atrox 80 contains lactose monohydrate 304.96 mg.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

### 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablet

#### Atrox 10:

White, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, with a score line on one side.

The tablet can be divided into two equal doses.

#### Atrox 20:

White, oblong, biconvex film-coated tablets, with a score line on one side.

The tablet can be divided into two equal doses.

#### Atrox 40:

White, oblong, biconvex film-coated tablets, with a score line on one side.

The tablet can be divided into two equal doses.

#### Atrox 80:

White, oblong, biconvex film-coated tablets, with a score line on one side.

The tablet can be divided into two equal doses.

## 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

#### **Hypercholesterolaemia**

Atrox is indicated as an adjunct to diet for reduction of elevated total cholesterol (total-C), LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C), apolipoprotein B, and triglycerides in adults, adolescents and children aged 10 years or older with primary hypercholesterolaemia including familial hypercholesterolaemia (heterozygous variant) or combined (mixed) hyperlipidaemia (corresponding to Types IIa and IIb of the Fredrickson classification) when response to diet and other nonpharmacological measures is inadequate.

Atrox is also indicated to reduce total-C and LDL-C in adults with homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (e.g. LDL apheresis) or if such treatments are unavailable.

#### **Prevention of cardiovascular disease**

Prevention of cardiovascular events in adult patients estimated to have a high risk for a first cardiovascular event (see section 5.1), as an adjunct to correction of other risk factors.

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

#### Posology

The patient should be placed on a standard cholesterol-lowering diet before receiving Atrox and should continue on this diet during treatment with Atrox.

The dose should be individualised according to baseline LDL-C levels, the goal of therapy, and patient response.

The usual starting dose is 10 mg once a day. Adjustment of dose should be made at intervals of 4 weeks or more. The maximum dose is 80 mg once a day.

#### *Co-administration with other medicinal products*

In patients taking hepatitis C antiviral agents elbasvir/grazoprevir concomitantly with atorvastatin, the dose of atorvastatin should not exceed 20 mg/day (see sections 4.4 and 4.5).

#### *Primary hypercholesterolaemia and combined (mixed) hyperlipidaemia*

The majority of patients are controlled with atorvastatin 10 mg once a day. A therapeutic response is evident within 2 weeks, and the maximum therapeutic response is usually achieved within 4 weeks. The response is maintained during chronic therapy.

#### *Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia*

Patients should be started with atorvastatin 10 mg daily. Doses should be individualised and adjusted every 4 weeks to 40 mg daily. Thereafter, either the dose may be increased to a maximum of 80 mg daily or a bile acid sequestrant may be combined with 40 mg atorvastatin once daily.

#### *Homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia*

Only limited data are available (see section 5.1).

The dose of atorvastatin in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia is 10 to 80 mg daily (see section 5.1). Atorvastatin should be used as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (e.g. LDL apheresis) in these patients or if such treatments are unavailable.

### Prevention of cardiovascular disease

In the primary prevention trials the dose was atorvastatin 10 mg daily. Higher doses may be necessary in order to attain LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C) levels according to current guidelines.

### Renal impairment

No adjustment of dose is required (see section 4.4).

### Hepatic impairment

Atorvastatin should be used with caution in patients with hepatic impairment (see sections 4.4 and 5.2). Atrox is contraindicated in patients with active liver disease (see section 4.3).

### Elderly

Efficacy and safety in patients older than 70 using recommended doses are similar to those seen in the general population.

### Paediatric population

Hypercholesterolaemia:

Paediatric use should only be carried out by physicians experienced in the treatment of paediatric hyperlipidaemia and patients should be re-evaluated on a regular basis to assess progress.

For patients aged 10 years and above with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, the recommended starting dose of atorvastatin is 10 mg per day (see section 5.1). The dose may be increased to 80 mg daily, according to the response and tolerability. Doses should be individualised according to the recommended goal therapy at intervals of 4 weeks or more. The dose titration to 80 mg per day is supported by study data in adults and by limited clinical data from studies in children with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (see section 4.8 and 5.1).

There are limited safety and efficacy data available in children with Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia between 6 to 10 years of age derived from open-label studies. Atorvastatin is not indicated in the treatment of patients below the age of 10 years.

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Currently available data are presented in points 4.8, 5.1 and 5.2 but no recommendation on a posology can be made. Other pharmaceutical forms/strengths of this medicinal product may be more appropriate for this population.

### Method of administration

Atrox is for oral administration. Each daily dose of atorvastatin is given all at once. Atrox tablets may be given at any time of day with or without food.

## **4.3 Contraindications**

Atrox is contraindicated in patients:

- with hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1
- with active liver disease or unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases exceeding 3 times the upper limit of normal
- during pregnancy, while breast-feeding and in women of child-bearing potential not using appropriate contraceptive measures (see section 4.6)
- treated with the hepatitis C antivirals glecaprevir/pibrentasvir.

## **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

## Liver effects

Liver function tests should be performed before the initiation of treatment and periodically thereafter. Patients who develop any signs or symptoms suggestive of liver injury should have liver function tests performed. Patients who develop increased transaminase levels should be monitored until the abnormality(ies) resolve. Should an increase in transaminases of greater than 3 times the upper limit of normal (ULN) persist, reduction of dose or withdrawal of Atrox is recommended (see section 4.8).

Atrox should be used with caution in patients who consume substantial quantities of alcohol and/or have a history of liver disease.

## Stroke Prevention by Aggressive Reduction in Cholesterol Levels (SPARCL)

In a post-hoc analysis of stroke subtypes in patients without coronary heart disease (CHD) who had a recent stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) there was a higher incidence of hemorrhagic stroke in patients initiated on atorvastatin 80 mg compared to placebo. The increased risk was particularly noted in patients with prior hemorrhagic stroke or lacunar infarct at study entry. For patients with prior hemorrhagic stroke or lacunar infarct, the balance of risks and benefits of atorvastatin 80 mg is uncertain, and the potential risk of hemorrhagic stroke should be carefully considered before initiating treatment (see section 5.1).

## Skeletal muscle effects

Atorvastatin, like other HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, may in rare occasions affect the skeletal muscle and cause myalgia, myositis, and myopathy that may progress to rhabdomyolysis, a potentially life-threatening condition characterised by markedly elevated creatine kinase (CK) levels (> 10 times ULN), myoglobinaemia and myoglobinuria which may lead to renal failure.

There have been very rare reports of an immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (IMNM) during and after treatment with some statins. The clinical features of IMNM is clinically characterised by persistent proximal muscle weakness and elevated serum creatine kinase, which persist despite discontinuation of statin treatment.

## Before the treatment

Atorvastatin should be prescribed with caution in patients with pre-disposing factors for rhabdomyolysis. A CK level should be measured before starting statin treatment in the following situations:

- renal impairment,
- hypothyroidism,
- personal or familial history of hereditary muscular disorders,
- previous history of muscular toxicity with a statin or fibrate,
- previous history of liver disease and/or where substantial quantities of alcohol are consumed,
- in elderly (age > 70 years), the necessity of such measurement should be considered, according to the presence of other predisposing factors for rhabdomyolysis,
- situations where an increase in plasma levels may occur, such as interactions (see section 4.5) and special populations including genetic subpopulations (see section 5.2).

In such situations, the risk of treatment should be considered in relation to possible benefit, and clinical monitoring is recommended.

If CK levels are significantly elevated (> 5 times ULN) at baseline, treatment should not be started.

## Creatine kinase measurement

Creatine kinase (CK) should not be measured following strenuous exercise or in the presence of any plausible alternative cause of CK increase as this makes value interpretation difficult. If CK levels are

significantly elevated at baseline (> 5 times ULN), levels should be remeasured within 5 to 7 days later to confirm the results.

#### Whilst on treatment

- Patients must be asked to promptly report muscle pain, cramps, or weakness especially if accompanied by malaise or fever.
- If such symptoms occur whilst a patient is receiving treatment with atorvastatin, their CK levels should be measured. If these levels are found to be significantly elevated (> 5 times ULN), treatment should be stopped.
- If muscular symptoms are severe and cause daily discomfort, even if the CK levels are elevated to  $\leq 5 \times$  ULN, treatment discontinuation should be considered.
- If symptoms resolve and CK levels return to normal, then re-introduction of atorvastatin or introduction of an alternative statin may be considered at the lowest dose and with close monitoring.
- Atorvastatin treatment must be discontinued if clinically significant elevation of CK levels (> 10 x ULN) occur, or if rhabdomyolysis is diagnosed or suspected.

#### Concomitant treatment with other medicinal products

Risk of rhabdomyolysis is increased when atorvastatin is administered concomitantly with certain medicinal products that may increase the plasma concentration of atorvastatin such as potent inhibitors of CYP3A4 or transport proteins (e.g. ciclosporine, telithromycin, clarithromycin, delavirdine, stiripentol, ketoconazole, voriconazole, itraconazole, posaconazole and HIV protease inhibitors including ritonavir, lopinavir, atazanavir, indinavir, darunavir, tipranavir/ritonavir etc). The risk of myopathy may also be increased with the concomitant use of gemfibrozil and other fibric acid derivatives, antivirals for the treatment of hepatitis C (HCV), (boceprevir, telaprevir, elbasvir/grazoprevir), erythromycin, niacin and ezetimibe. If possible, alternative (non-interacting) therapies should be considered instead of these medicinal products.

In cases where co-administration of these medicinal products with atorvastatin is necessary, the benefit and the risk of concurrent treatment should be carefully considered. When patients are receiving medicinal products that increase the plasma concentration of atorvastatin, a lower maximum dose of atorvastatin is recommended. In addition, in the case of potent CYP3A4 inhibitors, a lower starting dose of atorvastatin should be considered and appropriate clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended (see section 4.5).

Atorvastatin must not be co-administered with systemic formulations of fusidic acid or within 7 days of stopping fusidic acid treatment. In patients where the use of systemic fusidic acid is considered essential, statin treatment should be discontinued throughout the duration of fusidic acid treatment. There have been reports of rhabdomyolysis (including some fatalities) in patients receiving fusidic acid and statins in combination (see section 4.5). The patient should be advised to seek medical advice immediately if they experience any symptoms of muscle weakness, pain or tenderness.

Statin therapy may be re-introduced seven days after the last dose of fusidic acid.

In exceptional circumstances, where prolonged systemic fusidic acid is needed, e.g., for the treatment of severe infections, the need for co-administration of Atrox and fusidic acid should only be considered on a case by case basis and under close medical supervision.

#### Paediatric use

No clinically significant effect on growth and sexual maturation was observed in a 3-year study based on the assessment of overall maturation and development, assessment of Tanner Stage, and measurement of height and weight (see section 4.8).

#### Interstitial lung disease

Exceptional cases of interstitial lung disease have been reported with some statins, especially with long term therapy (see section 4.8). Presenting features can include dyspnoea, non-productive cough and deterioration

in general health (fatigue, weight loss and fever). If it is suspected a patient has developed interstitial lung disease, statin therapy should be discontinued.

### Diabetes Mellitus

Some evidence suggests that statins as a class raise blood glucose and in some patients, at high risk of future diabetes, may produce a level of hyperglycaemia where formal diabetes care is appropriate. This risk, however, is outweighed by the reduction in vascular risk with statins and therefore should not be a reason for stopping statin treatment. Patients at risk (fasting glucose 5.6 to 6.9 mmol/L, BMI>30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, raised triglycerides, hypertension) should be monitored both clinically and biochemically according to national guidelines.

### Excipients

Atrox contains lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

**This drug contains less than 1 mmol (23 mg) sodium** per the recommended dose unit, therefore the medicine is considered "sodium-free".

## **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

### Effect of co-administered medicinal products on atorvastatin

Atorvastatin is metabolized by cytochrome P450 3A4 (CYP3A4) and is a substrate of the hepatic transporters, organic anion-transporting polypeptide 1B1 (OATP1B1) and 1B3 (OATP1B3) transporter. Metabolites of atorvastatin are substrates OATP1B1. Atorvastatin is also identified as a substrate of the multi-drug resistance protein 1 (MDR1) and breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP), which may limit the intestinal absorption and biliary clearance of atorvastatin (see section 5.2). Concomitant administration of medicinal products that are inhibitors of CYP3A4 or transport proteins may lead to increased plasma concentrations of atorvastatin and an increased risk of myopathy. The risk might also be increased at concomitant administration of atorvastatin with other medicinal products that have a potential to induce myopathy, such as fibric acid derivatives and ezetimibe (see section 4.4).

### CYP3A4 inhibitors

Potent CYP3A4 inhibitors have been shown to lead to markedly increased concentrations of atorvastatin (see Table 1 and specific information below). Co-administration of potent CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g. ciclosporin, telithromycin, clarithromycin, delavirdine, stiripentol, ketoconazole, voriconazole, itraconazole, posaconazole, some antiviral drugs used in HCV treatment (e.g. elbasvir/grazoprevir) and HIV protease inhibitors including ritonavir, lopinavir, atazanavir, indinavir, darunavir, etc.) should be avoided if possible. In cases where co-administration of these medicinal products with atorvastatin cannot be avoided lower starting and maximum doses of atorvastatin should be considered and appropriate clinical monitoring of the patient is recommended (see Table 1).

Moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g. erythromycin, diltiazem, verapamil and fluconazole) may increase plasma concentrations of atorvastatin (see Table 1). An increased risk of myopathy has been observed with the use of erythromycin in combination with statins. Interaction studies evaluating the effects of amiodarone or verapamil on atorvastatin have not been conducted. Both amiodarone and verapamil are known to inhibit CYP3A4 activity and co-administration with atorvastatin may result in increased exposure to atorvastatin. Therefore, a lower maximum dose of atorvastatin should be considered and appropriate clinical monitoring of the patient is recommended when concomitantly used with moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors. Appropriate clinical monitoring is recommended after initiation or following dose adjustments of the inhibitor.

### CYP3A4 inducers

Concomitant administration of atorvastatin with inducers of cytochrome P450 3A (e.g. efavirenz, rifampicin, St. John's Wort) can lead to variable reductions in plasma concentrations of atorvastatin. Due to the dual interaction mechanism of rifampicin, (cytochrome P450 3A induction and inhibition of hepatocyte uptake transporter OATP1B1), simultaneous co-administration of atorvastatin with rifampicin is recommended, as delayed administration of atorvastatin after administration of rifampicin has been associated with a significant reduction in atorvastatin plasma concentrations. The effect of rifampicin on atorvastatin concentrations in hepatocytes is, however, unknown and if concomitant administration cannot be avoided, patients should be carefully monitored for efficacy.

### Transport inhibitors

Inhibitors of transport proteins (e.g. ciclosporin) can increase the systemic exposure of atorvastatin (see Table 1). The effect of inhibition of hepatic uptake transporters on atorvastatin concentrations in hepatocytes is unknown. If concomitant administration cannot be avoided, a dose reduction and clinical monitoring for efficacy is recommended (see Table 1).

### Gemfibrozil / fibric acid derivatives

The use of fibrates alone is occasionally associated with muscle related events, including rhabdomyolysis. The risk of these events may be increased with the concomitant use of fibric acid derivatives and atorvastatin. If concomitant administration cannot be avoided, the lowest dose of atorvastatin to achieve the therapeutic objective should be used and the patients should be appropriately monitored (see section 4.4).

### Ezetimibe

The use of ezetimibe alone is associated with muscle related events, including rhabdomyolysis. The risk of these events may therefore be increased with concomitant use of ezetimibe and atorvastatin. Appropriate clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended.

### Colestipol

Plasma concentrations of atorvastatin and its active metabolites were lower (atorvastatin concentration ratio: 0.74) when colestipol was co-administered with Atrox. However, lipid effects were greater when Atrox and colestipol were co-administered than when either medicinal product was given alone.

### Fusidic acid

The risk of myopathy including rhabdomyolysis may be increased by the concomitant administration of systemic fusidic acid with statins. The mechanism of this interaction (whether it is pharmacodynamic or pharmacokinetic, or both) is yet unknown. There have been reports of rhabdomyolysis (including some fatalities) in patients receiving this combination.

If treatment with systemic fusidic acid is necessary, atorvastatin treatment should be discontinued throughout the duration of the fusidic acid treatment. Also see section 4.4.

### Colchicine

Although interactions between atorvastatin and colchicine have not been conducted, cases of myopathy have been reported with the concomitant use of these two products. Therefore, caution should be used when using atorvastatin in combination with colchicine.

### Effect of atorvastatin on co-administered medicinal products

#### Digoxin

When multiple doses of digoxin and 10 mg atorvastatin were co-administered, steady-state digoxin concentrations increased slightly. Patients taking digoxin should be monitored appropriately.

### Oral contraceptives

Co-administration of Atrox with an oral contraceptive produced increases in plasma concentrations of norethindrone and ethinyl oestradiol.

### Warfarin

In a clinical study in patients receiving chronic warfarin therapy, coadministration of atorvastatin 80 mg daily with warfarin caused a small decrease of about 1.7 seconds in prothrombin time during the first 4 days of dosing which returned to normal within 15 days of atorvastatin treatment. Although only very rare cases of clinically significant anticoagulant interactions have been reported, prothrombin time should be determined before starting atorvastatin in patients taking coumarin anticoagulants and frequently enough during early therapy to ensure that no significant alteration of prothrombin time occurs. Once a stable prothrombin time has been documented, prothrombin times can be monitored at the intervals usually recommended for patients on coumarin anticoagulants. If the dose of atorvastatin is changed or discontinued, the same procedure should be repeated. Atorvastatin therapy has not been associated with bleeding or with changes in prothrombin time in patients not taking anticoagulants.

### Paediatric population

Drug-drug interaction studies have only been performed in adults. The extent of interactions in the paediatric population is not known. The above mentioned interactions for adults and the warnings in section 4.4 should be taken into account for the paediatric population.

### Drug interactions

Table 1: Effect of co-administered medicinal products on the pharmacokinetics of atorvastatin

Co-administered medicinal product and dosing regimen	Atorvastatin		
	Dose (mg)	Change in AUC <sup>&amp;</sup>	Clinical Recommendation <sup>#</sup>
Tipranavir 500 mg BID/ Ritonavir 200 mg BID, 8 days (days 14 to 21)	40 mg on day 1, 10 mg on day 20	9.4	In cases where coadministration with atorvastatin is necessary, do not exceed 10 mg atorvastatin daily. Clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended.
Telaprevir 750 mg every 8h, 10 days	20 mg, SD	7.9	
Ciclosporin 5.2 mg/kg/day, stable dose	10 mg OD for 28 days	8.7	
Glecaprevir 400 mg once a day/pibrentasvir 120 mg once a day, 7 days	10 mg once a day 7 days	8.3	Concomitant use with medicinal products containing glecaprevir or pibrentasvir is contraindicated (see section 4.3).
Lopinavir 400 mg BID/ Ritonavir 100 mg BID, 14 days	20 mg OD for 4 days	5.9	In cases where co-administration with atorvastatin is necessary, lower maintenance doses of atorvastatin are recommended. At atorvastatin doses exceeding 20 mg, clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended.
Clarithromycin 500 mg BID, 9 days	80 mg OD for 8 days	4.5	
Saquinavir 400 mg BID/ Ritonavir (300 mg BID from days 5-7, increased to 400 mg BID on day 8),	40 mg OD for 4 days	3.9	In cases where co-administration with atorvastatin is necessary, lower maintenance doses of atorvastatin are recommended. At atorvastatin doses

days 4-18, 30 min after atorvastatin dosing			exceeding 40 mg, clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended.
Darunavir 300 mg BID/Ritonavir 100 mg BID, 9 days	10 mg OD for 4 days	3.3	
Itraconazole 200 mg OD, 4 days	40 mg SD	3.3	
Fosamprenavir 700 mg BID/Ritonavir 100 mg BID, 14 days	10 mg OD for 4 days	2.5	
Fosamprenavir 1400 mg BID, 14 days	10 mg OD for 4 days	2.3	
Elbasvir 50 mg once a day + grazoprevir 200 mg once per day, 13 days	10 mg in a single dose	1.95	When used with elbasvir or grazoprevir products, a dose of atorvastatin greater than 20 mg per day should not be administered.
Nelfinavir 1250 mg BID, 14 days	10 mg OD for 28 days	1.74	No specific recommendation.
Grapefruit Juice, 240 mL OD *	40 mg, SD	1.37	Concomitant intake of large quantities of grapefruit juice and atorvastatin is not recommended.
Diltiazem 240 mg OD, 28 days	40 mg, SD	1.51	After initiation or following dose adjustments of diltiazem, appropriate clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended.
Erythromycin 500 mg QID, 7 days	10 mg, SD	1.33	Lower maximum dose and clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended.
Amlodipine 10 mg, single dose	80 mg, SD	1.18	No specific recommendation.
Cimetidine 300 mg QID, 2 weeks	10 mg OD for 2 weeks	1.00	No specific recommendation.
Colestipole 10g BID, 24 weeks	40 mg OD for 8 weeks	0.74**	No specific recommendation.
Antacid suspension of magnesium and aluminium hydroxides, 30 mL QID, 2 weeks	10 mg OD for 15 days	0.66	No specific recommendation.
Efavirenz 600 mg OD, 14 days	10 mg for 3 days	0.59	No specific recommendation.
Rifampicin 600 mg OD, 7 days (co-administered)	40 mg SD	1.12	If co-administration cannot be avoided, simultaneous co-administration of atorvastatin with rifampicin is recommended, with clinical monitoring.
Rifampicin 600 mg OD, 5 days (doses separated)	40 mg SD	0.20	
Gemfibrozil 600 mg BID, 7 days	40mg SD	1.35	Lower starting dose and clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended.
Fenofibrate 160 mg OD, 7 days	40mg SD	1.03	
Boceprevir 800 mg TID, 7 days	40 mg SD	2.3	Lower starting dose and clinical monitoring of these patients is recommended. When used concomitantly with boceprevir, the dose of atorvastatin should not exceed 20 mg per day.

- & Represents ratio of treatments (co-administered drug plus atorvastatin versus atorvastatin alone).
- # See sections 4.4 and 4.5 for clinical significance.
- \* Contains one or more components that inhibit CYP3A4 and may increase the plasma concentrations of medicinal products metabolised by CYP3A4. Intake of one glass of 240 ml of grapefruit juice also resulted in a decreased AUC of 20.4% for the active orthohydroxyl metabolite. Large amounts of grapefruit juice (over 1.2 l daily for 5 days) increased AUC of atorvastatin 2.5 fold and 1.3 fold of active HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (atorvastatin and metabolites).
- \*\* Ratio based on a single sample taken 8-16 h post dose .
- OD = once daily; SD = single dose; BID = twice daily; TID= three times a day; QID = four times daily

Table 2: Effect of atorvastatin on the pharmacokinetics of co-administered medicinal products

Atorvastatin and dosing regimen	Co-administered medicinal product		
	Medicinal product/Dose (mg)	Change in AUC <sup>&amp;</sup>	Clinical Recommendation
80 mg OD for 10 days	Digoxin 0.25 mg OD, 20 days	1.15	Patients taking digoxin should be monitored appropriately.
40 mg OD for 22 days	Oral contraceptive OD, 2 months - norethindrone 1 mg - ethinyl estradiol 35 µg	1.28 1.19	No specific recommendation.
80 mg OD for 15 days	* Phenazone, 600 mg SD	1.03	No specific recommendation
10 mg, SD	Tipranavir 500 mg BID/ritonavir 200 mg BID	1.08	No specific recommendation
10 mg, OD for 4 days	Fosamprenavir 1400 mg BID, 14 days	0.73	No specific recommendation
10 mg, OD for 4 days	Fosamprenavir 700 mg BID/ritonavir 100 mg BID, 14 days	0.99	No specific recommendation

- & Represents ratio of treatments (co-administered drug plus atorvastatin versus atorvastatin alone)
- \* Co-administration of multiple doses of atorvastatin and phenazone showed little or no detectable effect in the clearance of phenazone.
- OD = once daily; SD = single dose; BID = twice daily

#### 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

##### Women of childbearing potential

Women of child-bearing potential should use appropriate contraceptive measures during treatment (see section 4.3).

##### Pregnancy

Atrox is contraindicated during pregnancy (see section 4.3). Safety in pregnant women has not been established. No controlled clinical trials with atorvastatin have been conducted in pregnant women. Rare reports of congenital anomalies following intrauterine exposure to HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors have been received. Animal studies have shown toxicity to reproduction (see section 5.3).

Maternal treatment with atorvastatin may reduce the fetal levels of mevalonate which is a precursor of cholesterol biosynthesis. Atherosclerosis is a chronic process, and ordinarily discontinuation of lipid-lowering medicinal products during pregnancy should have little impact on the long-term risk associated with primary hypercholesterolaemia.

For these reasons, Atrox should not be used in women who are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or suspect they are pregnant. Treatment with Atrox should be suspended for the duration of pregnancy or until it has been determined that the woman is not pregnant (see section 4.3.)

#### Breastfeeding

It is not known whether atorvastatin or its metabolites are excreted in human milk. In rats, plasma concentrations of atorvastatin and its active metabolites are similar to those in milk (see section 5.3). Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions, women taking Atrox should not breast-feed their infants (see section 4.3). Atorvastatin is contraindicated during breastfeeding (see section 4.3).

#### Fertility

In animal studies atorvastatin had no effect on male or female fertility (see section 5.3).

### **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

Atrox has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

### **4.8 Undesirable effects**

In the atorvastatin placebo-controlled clinical trial database of 16,066 (8755 atorvastatin vs. 7311 placebo) patients treated for a mean period of 53 weeks, 5.2% of patients on atorvastatin discontinued due to adverse reactions compared to 4.0% of the patients on placebo.

Based on data from clinical studies and extensive post-marketing experience, the following table presents the adverse reaction profile for Atrox.

Estimated frequencies of reactions are ranked according to the following convention:

- common ( $\geq 1/100$ ,  $< 1/10$ );
- uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$ ,  $< 1/100$ );
- rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$ ,  $< 1/1,000$ );
- very rare ( $\leq 1/10,000$ ),
- not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data).

#### Infections and infestations:

Common: nasopharyngitis.

#### Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Rare: thrombocytopenia.

#### Immune system disorders

Common: allergic reactions.

Very rare: anaphylaxis.

#### Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Common: hyperglycaemia.

Uncommon: hypoglycaemia, weight gain, anorexia

#### Psychiatric disorders

Uncommon: nightmare, insomnia.

#### Nervous system disorders

Common: headache.

Uncommon: dizziness, paraesthesia, hypoesthesia, dysgeusia, amnesia.

Rare: peripheral neuropathy.

#### Eye disorders

Uncommon: vision blurred.

Rare: visual disturbance.

#### Ear and labyrinth disorders

Uncommon: tinnitus

Very rare: hearing loss.

#### Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:

Common: pharyngolaryngeal pain, epistaxis.

#### Gastrointestinal disorders

Common: constipation, flatulence, dyspepsia, nausea, diarrhoea.

Uncommon: vomiting, abdominal pain upper and lower, eructation, pancreatitis.

#### Hepatobiliary disorders

Uncommon: hepatitis.

Rare: cholestasis.

Very rare: hepatic failure.

#### Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Uncommon: urticaria, skin rash, pruritus, alopecia.

Rare: angioneurotic oedema, dermatitis bullous including erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.

#### Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Common: myalgia, arthralgia, pain in extremity, muscle spasms, joint swelling, back pain.

Uncommon: neck pain, muscle fatigue.

Rare: myopathy, myositis, rhabdomyolysis, muscle rupture, tendonopathy, sometimes complicated by rupture

Very rare: lupus-like syndrome.

Not known: immunosensory necrotic myopathy (see section 4.4).

#### Reproductive system and breast disorders

Very rare: gynecomastia.

#### General disorders and administration site conditions

Uncommon: malaise, asthenia, chest pain, peripheral oedema, fatigue, pyrexia.

#### Investigations

Common: liver function test abnormal, blood creatine kinase increased.

Uncommon: white blood cells urine positive.

As with other HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors elevated serum transaminases have been reported in patients receiving Atrox. These changes were usually mild, transient, and did not require interruption of treatment. Clinically important (> 3 times upper normal limit) elevations in serum transaminases occurred in 0.8% patients on Atrox. These elevations were dose related and were reversible in all patients.

Elevated serum creatine kinase (CK) levels greater than 3 times upper limit of normal occurred in 2.5% of patients on Atrox, similar to other HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors in clinical trials. Levels above 10 times the normal upper range occurred in 0.4% Atrox-treated patients (see section 4.4).

#### Paediatric population

The profile of adverse reactions in children and adolescents aged 10 to 17 years treated with atorvastatin was generally similar to that of patients who received placebo. The most common adverse reactions reported in both groups, regardless of causality assessment, were infections. No clinically significant effect on growth and sexual maturation was observed in a 3-year study based on the assessment of overall maturation and development, assessment of Tanner Stage, and measurement of height and weight. The safety and tolerability profile in paediatric patients was similar to the known safety profile of atorvastatin in adult patients.

The clinical safety database includes safety data for 520 paediatric patients treated with atorvastatin, among which 7 patients were <6 years old, 121 patients aged 6-9 years and 392 patients aged 10-17 years. Based on the available data, the frequency, type and severity of side effects in children are similar to those in adults.

The following adverse events have been reported with some statins:

- Sexual dysfunction.
- Depression.
- Exceptional cases of interstitial lung disease, especially with long term therapy (see section 4.4).
- Diabetes Mellitus: Frequency will depend on the presence or absence of risk factors (fasting blood glucose  $\geq 5.6$  mmol/L, BMI >30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, raised triglycerides, history of hypertension).

#### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Pharmacovigilance Department of the Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medicinal Devices and Biocidal Products

Al. Jerozolimskie 181C

02-222 Warszawa

Tel.: +48 22 49 21 301

Fax.: +48 22 49 21 309

e-mail: ndl@urpl.gov.pl

You can also report side effects to the Marketing Authorisation Holder.

## **4.9 Overdose**

Specific treatment is not available for atorvastatin overdose.

Should an overdose occur, the patient should be treated symptomatically and supportive measures instituted, as required. Liver function tests should be performed and serum CK levels should be monitored. Due to extensive atorvastatin binding to plasma proteins, haemodialysis is not expected to significantly enhance atorvastatin clearance.

## **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Lipid modifying agents, HMG-CoA-reductase inhibitors

ATC code: C10AA05

Atorvastatin is a selective, competitive inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase, the rate-limiting enzyme responsible for the conversion of 3-hydroxy-3-methyl-glutaryl-coenzyme A to mevalonate, a precursor of sterols, including cholesterol. Triglycerides and cholesterol in the liver are incorporated into very low-density lipoproteins (VLDL) and released into the plasma for delivery to peripheral tissues. Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) is formed from VLDL and is catabolized primarily through the receptor with high affinity to LDL (LDL receptor).

Atorvastatin lowers plasma cholesterol and lipoprotein serum concentrations by inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase and subsequently cholesterol biosynthesis in the liver and increases the number of hepatic LDL receptors on the cell surface for enhanced uptake and catabolism of LDL.

Atorvastatin reduces LDL production and the number of LDL particles. Atorvastatin produces a profound and sustained increase in LDL receptor activity coupled with a beneficial change in the quality of circulating LDL particles. Atorvastatin is effective in reducing LDL-C in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, a population that has not usually responded to lipid-lowering medicinal products.

Atorvastatin has been shown to reduce concentrations of total-C (30% - 46%), LDL-C (41% - 61%), apolipoprotein B (34% - 50%), and triglycerides (14% - 33%) while producing variable increases in HDL-C and apolipoprotein A1 in a dose response study. These results are consistent in patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, nonfamilial forms of hypercholesterolaemia, and mixed hyperlipidaemia, including patients with noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

Reductions in total-C, LDL-C, and apolipoprotein B have been proven to reduce risk for cardiovascular events and cardiovascular mortality.

#### Homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia

In a multicenter 8 week open-label compassionate-use study with an optional extension phase of variable length, 335 patients were enrolled, 89 of which were identified as homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia patients. From these 89 patients, the mean percent reduction in LDL-C was approximately 20%. Atorvastatin was administered at doses up to 80 mg/day.

#### Atherosclerosis

In the Reversing Atherosclerosis with Aggressive Lipid- Lowering Study (REVERSAL), the effect of intensive lipid lowering with atorvastatin 80 mg and standard degree of lipid lowering with pravastatin 40 mg on coronary atherosclerosis was assessed by intravascular ultrasound (IVUS), during angiography, in patients with coronary heart disease. In this randomised, double- blind, multicenter, controlled clinical trial, IVUS was performed at baseline and at 18 months in 502 patients. In the atorvastatin group (n=253), there was no progression of atherosclerosis.

The median percent change, from baseline, in total atheroma volume (the primary study criteria) was -0.4% (p=0.98) in the atorvastatin group and +2.7% (p=0.001) in the pravastatin group (n=249). When compared to pravastatin the effects of atorvastatin were statistically significant (p=0.02). The effect of intensive lipid lowering on cardiovascular endpoints (e. g. need for revascularisation, non fatal myocardial infarction, coronary death) was not investigated in this study.

In the atorvastatin group, LDL-C was reduced to a mean of 2.04 mmol/L  $\pm$  0.8 (78.9 mg/dl  $\pm$  30) from baseline 3.89 mmol/l  $\pm$  0.7 (150 mg/dl  $\pm$  28) and in the pravastatin group, LDL-C was reduced to a mean of 2.85 mmol/l  $\pm$  0.7 (110 mg/dl  $\pm$  26) from baseline 3.89 mmol/l  $\pm$  0.7 (150 mg/dl  $\pm$  26) (p<0.0001). Atorvastatin also significantly reduced mean TC by 34.1% (pravastatin: -18.4%, p<0.0001), mean TG levels by 20% (pravastatin: -6.8%, p<0.0009), and mean apolipoprotein B by 39.1% (pravastatin: -22.0%, p<0.0001). Atorvastatin increased mean HDL-C by 2.9% (pravastatin: +5.6%, p=NS). There was a 36.4% mean reduction in CRP in the atorvastatin group compared to a 5.2% reduction in the pravastatin group (p<0.0001).

Study results were obtained with the 80 mg dose strength. Therefore, they cannot be extrapolated to the lower dose strengths.

The safety and tolerability profiles of the two treatment groups were comparable. The effect of intensive lipid lowering on major cardiovascular endpoints was not investigated in this study. Therefore, the clinical significance of these imaging results with regard to the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular events is unknown.

### Acute coronary syndrome

In the MIRACL study, atorvastatin 80 mg has been evaluated in 3,086 patients (atorvastatin n=1,538; placebo n=1,548) with an acute coronary syndrome (non Q-wave MI or unstable angina). Treatment was initiated during the acute phase after hospital admission and lasted for a period of 16 weeks. Treatment with atorvastatin 80 mg/day increased the time to occurrence of the combined primary endpoint, defined as death from any cause, nonfatal MI, resuscitated cardiac arrest, or angina pectoris with evidence of myocardial ischaemia requiring hospitalization, indicating a risk reduction by 16% (p=0.048). This was mainly due to a 26% reduction in re-hospitalisation for angina pectoris with evidence of myocardial ischaemia (p=0.018). The other secondary endpoints did not reach statistical significance on their own (overall: Placebo: 22.2%, Atorvastatin: 22.4%).

The safety profile of atorvastatin in the MIRACL study was consistent with what is described in section 4.8.

### Prevention of cardiovascular disease

The effect of atorvastatin on fatal and non-fatal coronary heart disease was assessed in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, the Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial Lipid Lowering Arm (ASCOT-LLA). Patients were hypertensive, 40-79 years of age, with no previous myocardial infarction or treatment for angina, and with TC levels  $\leq 6.5$  mmol/l (251 mg/dl). All patients had at least 3 of the pre-defined cardiovascular risk factors: male gender, age  $\geq 55$  years, smoking, diabetes, history of CHD in a first-degree relative, TC:HDL-C  $> 6$ , peripheral vascular disease, left ventricular hypertrophy, prior cerebrovascular event, specific ECG abnormality, proteinuria/albuminuria. Not all included patients were estimated to have a high risk for a first cardiovascular event.

Patients were treated with anti-hypertensive therapy (either amlodipine or atenolol-based regimen) and either atorvastatin 10 mg daily (n=5,168) or placebo (n=5,137).

The absolute and relative risk reduction effect of atorvastatin was as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Relative Risk Reduction (%)</b>	<b>No. of Events (Atorvastatin vs Placebo)</b>	<b>Absolute Risk Reduction<sup>1</sup> (%)</b>	<b>p-value</b>
Fatal CHD plus non-fatal MI	36%	100 vs. 154	1.1%	0.0005
Total cardiovascular events and revascularization procedures	20%	389 vs. 483	1.9%	0.0008
Total coronary events	29%	178 vs 247	1.4%	0.0006

<sup>1</sup>Based on difference in crude events rates occurring over a median follow-up of 3.3 years. CHD = coronary heart disease; MI = myocardial infarction.

Total mortality and cardiovascular mortality were not significantly reduced (185 vs. 212 events, p=0.17 and 74 vs. 82 events, p=0.51). In the subgroup analyses by gender (81% males, 19% females), a beneficial effect of atorvastatin was seen in males but could not be established in females possibly due to the low event rate in the female subgroup. Overall and cardiovascular mortality were numerically higher in the female patients (38 vs. 30 and 17 vs. 12), but this was not statistically significant. There was significant treatment interaction by antihypertensive baseline therapy. The primary endpoint (fatal CHD plus non-fatal MI) was significantly reduced by atorvastatin in patients treated with amlodipine (HR 0.47 (0.32-0.69), p=0.00008), but not in those treated with atenolol (HR 0.83 (0.59-1.17), p=0.287).

The effect of atorvastatin on fatal and non-fatal cardiovascular disease was also assessed in a randomized, double-blind, multicenter, placebo-controlled trial, the Collaborative Atorvastatin Diabetes Study (CARDS) in patients with type 2 diabetes, 40-75 years of age, without prior history of cardiovascular disease, and with LDL-C  $\leq 4.14$  mmol/l (160 mg/dl) and TG  $\leq 6.78$  mmol/l (600 mg/dl). All patients had at least 1 of the following risk factors: hypertension, current smoking, retinopathy, microalbuminuria or macroalbuminuria.

Patients were treated with either atorvastatin 10 mg daily (n=1,428) or placebo (n=1,410) for a median follow-up of 3.9 years.

The absolute and relative risk reduction effect of atorvastatin was as follows:

Event	Relative Risk Reduction (%)	No. of Events (Atorvastatin vs Placebo)	Absolute Risk Reduction <sup>1</sup> (%)	p-value
Major cardiovascular events (fatal and non-fatal AMI, silent MI, acute CHD death, unstable angina, CABG, PTCA, revascularization, stroke)	37%	83 vs. 127	3.2%	0.0010
MI (fatal and non-fatal AMI, silent MI)	42%	38 vs 64	1.9%	0.0070
Strokes (Fatal and non-fatal)	48%	21 vs. 39	1.3%	0.0163

<sup>1</sup>Based on difference in crude events rates occurring over a median follow-up of 3.9 years.

AMI = acute myocardial infarction; CABG = coronary artery bypass graft; CHD = coronary heart disease; MI = myocardial infarction; PTCA = percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.

There was no evidence of a difference in the treatment effect by patient's gender, age, or baseline LDL-C level. A favourable trend was observed regarding the mortality rate (82 deaths in the placebo group vs. 61 deaths in the atorvastatin group, p=0.0592).

#### Recurrent stroke

In the Stroke Prevention by Aggressive Reduction in Cholesterol Levels (SPARCL) study, the effect of atorvastatin 80 mg daily or placebo on stroke was evaluated in 4731 patients who had a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) within the preceding 6 months and no history of coronary heart disease (CHD). Patients were 60% male, 21-92 years of age (average age 63 years), and had an average baseline LDL of 133 mg/dL (3.4 mmol/L). The mean LDL-C was 73 mg/dL (1.9 mmol/L) during treatment with atorvastatin and 129 mg/dL (3.3 mmol/L) during treatment with placebo. Median follow-up was 4.9 years.

Atorvastatin 80 mg reduced the risk of the primary endpoint of fatal or non-fatal stroke by 15% (HR 0.85; 95% CI, 0.72-1.00; p=0.05 or 0.84; 95% CI, 0.71-0.99; p=0.03 after adjustment for baseline factors) compared to placebo. All cause mortality was 9.1% (216/2365) for atorvastatin versus 8.9% (211/2366) for placebo.

In a post-hoc analysis, atorvastatin 80 mg reduced the incidence of ischemic stroke (218/2365, 9.2% vs. 274/2366, 11.6%, p=0.01) and increased the incidence of hemorrhagic stroke (55/2365, 2.3% vs. 33/2366, 1.4%, p=0.02) compared to placebo.

- The risk of hemorrhagic stroke was increased in patients who entered the study with prior hemorrhagic stroke (7/45 for atorvastatin versus 2/48 for placebo; HR 4.06; 95% CI, 0.84-19.57), and the risk of ischemic stroke was similar between groups (3/45 for atorvastatin versus 2/48 for placebo; HR 1.64; 95% CI, 0.27-9.82).
- The risk of hemorrhagic stroke was increased in patients who entered the study with prior lacunar infarct (20/708 for atorvastatin versus 4/701 for placebo; HR 4.99; 95% CI, 1.71-14.61), but the risk of ischemic stroke was also decreased in these patients (79/708 for atorvastatin versus 102/701 for placebo; HR 0.76; 95% CI, 0.57-1.02). It is possible that the net risk of stroke is increased in patients with prior lacunar infarct who receive atorvastatin 80 mg/day.

All cause mortality was 15.6% (7/45) for atorvastatin versus 10.4% (5/48) in the subgroup of patients with prior hemorrhagic stroke. All cause mortality was 10.9% (77/708) for atorvastatin versus 9.1% (64/701) for placebo in the subgroup of patients with prior lacunar infarct.

### Paediatric Population

#### Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolaemia in Paediatric Patients aged 6-17 years old

An 8-week, open-label study to evaluate pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and safety and tolerability of atorvastatin was conducted in children and adolescents with genetically confirmed heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and baseline LDL-C  $\geq 4$  mmol/L. A total of 39 children and adolescents, 6 to 17 years of age, were enrolled. Cohort A included 15 children, 6 to 12 years of age and at Tanner Stage 1. Cohort B included 24 children, 10 to 17 years of age and at Tanner Stage  $\geq 2$ .

The initial dose of atorvastatin was 5 mg daily of a chewable tablet in Cohort A and 10 mg daily of a tablet formulation in Cohort B. The atorvastatin dose was permitted to be doubled if a subject had not attained target LDL-C of  $< 3.35$  mmol/L at Week 4 and if atorvastatin was well tolerated.

Mean values for LDL-C, TC, VLDL-C, and Apo B decreased by Week 2 among all subjects. For subjects whose dose was doubled, additional decreases were observed as early as 2 weeks, at the first assessment, after dose escalation. The mean percent decreases in lipid parameters were similar for both cohorts, regardless of whether subjects remained at their initial dose or doubled their initial dose. At Week 8, on average, the percent change from baseline in LDL-C and TC was approximately 40% and 30%, respectively, over the range of exposures.

In the second open-label clinical trial conducted in one group of patients, 271 children and adolescents, both male and female aged from 6 to 15 years with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia, participated. Subjects were treated with atorvastatin for up to three years. The condition for inclusion in the study was the presence of confirmed heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and the initial LDL-C concentration  $\geq 4$  mmol / l (approximately 152 mg / dl). The study included 139 children at development stage 1 on the Tanner scale (aged 6 to 10 years). The initial dose of atorvastatin in children under 10 years was 5 mg (once a day as a chewable tablet). The initial dose of atorvastatin in children 10 years and older was 10 mg (once a day). In all children there was a possibility to increase the dose to achieve the target LDL-C concentration  $< 3.35$  mmol / l. The weighted average dose in children aged 6 to 9 years was 19.6 mg, while the weighted average dose in children aged 10 years and older was 23.9 mg.

The mean (+/- SD) baseline LDL-C value was 6.12 (1.26) mmol / L, which was approximately equal to 233 (48) mg / dL. The final results are presented in Table 3.

The obtained data were consistent with no drug effect on any of the parameters of growth and development (i.e. height, weight, BMI index, Tanner development stage, general development and maturation assessment) in children and adolescents with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia treated with atorvastatin for the study duration of three years. There was no effect of the medicinal product on growth, weight or BMI in patients divided by age, sex and visits.

Time point	N	TC (SD)	LDL-C (SD)	HDL-C (SD)	TG (SD)	Apo B (SD)#
Beginning of the study	271	7.86 (1.30)	6.12 (1.26)	1.314 (0.2663)	0.93 (0.47)	1,42 (0.28)**
Month 30	206	4.95 (0.77)*	3.25 (0.67)	1.327	0.79 (0.38)*	0.90 (0.17)*

				(0.2796)		
Month 36/ET	240	5.12 (0.86)	3.45 (0.81)	1.308 (0.2739)	0.78 (0.41)	0.93 (0.20)***
TC = total cholesterol; LDL-C = low density lipoprotein C; HDL-C = high density lipoprotein C; TG = triglycerides; Apo B = apolipoprotein B; "Month 36 / ET" included data from the last visit in the case of patients who completed their participation in the study before a predetermined 36 months time point, as well as full data from 36 months for patients who participated in the study for 36 months; "*" = Month 30 N for this parameter was 207; "***" = Beginning of the study N for this parameter was 270; "****" = Month 36 / ET N for this parameter was 243; "#" = G / 1 for Apo B.						

### Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolaemia in Paediatric Patients aged 10-17 years old

In a double-blind, placebo controlled study followed by an open-label phase, 187 boys and postmenarchal girls 10-17 years of age (mean age 14.1 years) with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) or severe hypercholesterolaemia were randomised to atorvastatin (n=140) or placebo (n=47) for 26 weeks and then all received atorvastatin for 26 weeks.. The dosage of atorvastatin (once daily) was 10 mg for the first 4 weeks and up-titrated to 20 mg if the LDL-C level was >3.36 mmol/l. Atorvastatin significantly decreased plasma levels of total-C, LDL-C, triglycerides, and apolipoprotein B during the 26 week double-blind phase. The mean achieved LDL-C value was 3.38 mmol/l (range: 1.81-6.26 mmol/l) in the atorvastatin group compared to 5.91 mmol/l (range: 3.93-9.96 mmol/l) in the placebo group during the 26-week double-blind phase.

An additional paediatric study of atorvastatin versus colestipol in patients with hypercholesterolaemia aged 10-18 years demonstrated that atorvastatin (N=25) caused a significant reduction in LDL-C at week 26 (p<0.05) compared with colestipol (N=31).

A compassionate use study in patients with severe hypercholesterolaemia (including homozygous hypercholesterolaemia) included 46 paediatric patients treated with atorvastatin titrated according to response (some subjects received 80 mg atorvastatin per day). The study lasted 3 years: LDL-cholesterol was lowered by 36%.

The long-term efficacy of atorvastatin therapy in childhood to reduce morbidity and mortality in adulthood has not been established.

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with the reference medicinal product containing atorvastatin in children aged 0 to less than 6 years in the treatment of heterozygous hypercholesterolaemia and in children aged 0 to less than 18 years in the treatment of homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, combined (mixed) hypercholesterolaemia, primary hypercholesterolaemia and in the prevention of cardiovascular events (see section 4.2 for information on paediatric use).

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

### Absorption

Atorvastatin is rapidly absorbed after oral administration; maximum plasma concentrations ( $C_{max}$ ) occur within 1 to 2 hours. Extent of absorption increases in proportion to atorvastatin dose. After oral administration, atorvastatin film-coated tablets are 95% to 99% bioavailable compared to the oral solution. The absolute bioavailability of atorvastatin is approximately 12% and the systemic availability of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitory activity is approximately 30%. The low systemic availability is attributed to presystemic clearance in gastrointestinal mucosa and/or hepatic first-pass metabolism

### Distribution

Mean volume of distribution of atorvastatin is approximately 381 l. Atorvastatin is  $\geq 98\%$  bound to plasma proteins.

### Biotransformation

Atorvastatin is metabolized by cytochrome P450 3A4 to ortho- and parahydroxylated derivatives and various beta-oxidation products. Apart from other pathways these products are further metabolized via glucuronidation. In vitro, inhibition of HMG-CoA reductase by ortho- and parahydroxylated metabolites is equivalent to that of atorvastatin. Approximately 70% of circulating inhibitory activity for HMG-CoA reductase is attributed to active metabolites.

### Excretion

Atorvastatin is eliminated primarily in bile following hepatic and/or extrahepatic metabolism. However, atorvastatin does not appear to undergo significant enterohepatic recirculation. Mean plasma elimination half-life of atorvastatin in humans is approximately 14 hours. The half-life of inhibitory activity for HMG-CoA reductase is approximately 20 to 30 hours due to the contribution of active metabolites. Atorvastatin is a substrate of the hepatic transporters, organic anion-transporting polypeptide 1B1 (OATP1B1) and 1B3 (OATP1B3) transporter. Metabolites of atorvastatin are substrates of OATP1B1. Atorvastatin is also identified as a substrate of the efflux transporters multi-drug resistance protein 1 (MDR1) and breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP), which may limit the intestinal absorption and biliary clearance of atorvastatin.

### Special populations

#### *Elderly*

Plasma concentrations of atorvastatin and its active metabolites are higher in healthy elderly subjects than in young adults while the lipid effects were comparable to those seen in younger patient populations.

#### *Paediatric population*

In an open-label, 8-week study, Tanner Stage 1 (N=15) and Tanner Stage  $\geq 2$  (N=24) paediatric patients (ages 6-17 years) with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and baseline LDL-C  $\geq 4$  mmol/L were treated with 5 or 10 mg of chewable or 10 or 20 mg of film-coated atorvastatin tablets once daily, respectively. Body weight was the only significant covariate in atorvastatin population PK model. Apparent oral clearance of atorvastatin in paediatric subjects appeared similar to adults when scaled allometrically by body weight. Consistent decreases in LDL-C and TC were observed over the range of atorvastatin and o-hydroxyatorvastatin exposures.

#### *Gender*

Concentrations of atorvastatin and its active metabolites in women differ from those in men (Women: approx. 20% higher for  $C_{max}$  and approx. 10% lower for AUC). These differences were of no clinical significance, resulting in no clinically significant differences in lipid effects among men and women.

#### *Renal insufficiency*

Renal disease has no influence on the plasma concentrations or lipid effects of atorvastatin and its active metabolites.

#### Hepatic insufficiency

Plasma concentrations of atorvastatin and its active metabolites are markedly increased (approx. 16-fold in  $C_{max}$  and approx. 11-fold in AUC) in patients with chronic alcoholic liver disease (Child-Pugh B).

#### *SLCO1B1 polymorphism*

Hepatic uptake of all HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors including atorvastatin, involves the OATP1B1 transporter. In patients with SLCO1B1 polymorphism there is a risk of increased exposure of atorvastatin, which may lead to an increased risk of rhabdomyolysis (see section 4.4). Polymorphism in the gene

encoding OATP1B1 (SLCO1B1 c.521CC) is associated with a 2.4-fold higher atorvastatin exposure (AUC) than in individuals without this genotype variant (c.521TT). A genetically impaired hepatic uptake of atorvastatin is also possible in these patients. Possible consequences for the efficacy are unknown.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Atorvastatin was negative for mutagenic and clastogenic potential in a battery of 4 *in vitro* tests and 1 *in vivo* assay.

Atorvastatin was not found to be carcinogenic in rats, but high doses in mice (resulting in 6-11 fold the AUC<sub>0-24h</sub> reached in humans at the highest recommended dose) showed hepatocellular adenomas in males and hepatocellular carcinomas in females.

There is evidence from animal experimental studies that HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors may affect the development of embryos or fetuses. In rats, rabbits and dogs atorvastatin had no effect on fertility and was not teratogenic, however, at maternally toxic doses fetal toxicity was observed in rats and rabbits. The development of the rat offspring was delayed and post-natal survival reduced during exposure of the dams to high doses of atorvastatin.

In rats, there is evidence of placental transfer. In rats, plasma concentrations of atorvastatin are similar to those in milk. It is not known whether atorvastatin or its metabolites are excreted in human milk.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

#### Core:

Cellulose microcrystalline  
Calcium carbonate  
Lactose monohydrate  
Croscarmellose sodium  
Hydroxypropyl cellulose  
Polysorbate 80  
Magnesium stearate

#### Film (AquaPolish white 014.11):

Hypromellose  
Hydroxypropyl cellulose  
Talc  
Titanium dioxide (E171)  
Macrogol 6000

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

2 years

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 25°C.

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Blisters of Aluminium/Aluminium foil in a cardboard box.

Atrox 10, Atrox 20:

30 film-coated tablets

60 film-coated tablets

90 film-coated tablets

Atrox 40:

10 film-coated tablets

30 film-coated tablets

60 film-coated tablets

90 film-coated tablets

Atrox 80:

10 film-coated tablets

14 film-coated tablets

28 film-coated tablets

30 film-coated tablets

56 film-coated tablets

60 film-coated tablets

Not all the pack sizes may be marketed.

## **6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling**

No special requirements.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements

## **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Biofarm Sp. z o.o.

ul. Wałbrzyska 13

60-198 Poznań

## **8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

Atrox 10: pozwolenie nr 11246

Atrox 20: pozwolenie nr 11247

Atrox 40: pozwolenie nr 11248

Atrox, 80 mg: pozwolenie nr 20517

## **9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

The date of the first marketing authorization Atrox 10, Atrox 20, Atrox 40: 29 April 2004.

Date of the last renewal of the permit: 12 September 2013.

Date of the first marketing authorization Atrox, 80 mg 31 August 2012.

Date of the last license renewal: 25 July 2017.

## **10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

07.02.2020