




2011 in Review
GRIPA Tidbit

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AIM-HIGH results



Among patients with:


- ▶ stable, non-acute, cardiovascular disease
- ▶ low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) levels of <70 mg/dL

There was no incremental clinical benefit from the addition of niacin to statin therapy during a 36-month follow-up.

So.....

- ▶ Continue to treat LDL levels to goal through use of statins
- ▶ Encourage TLC (wt. loss, exercise, diet) in those patients with cardiovascular disease at high risk and have low HDL
- ▶ Because the difference in HDL and LDL between treatment arms was small (4mg/dL HDL, 6mg/dL LDL) and the early termination of study, the results should not be extrapolated


FDA warning on simvastatin 80mg...



FDA Warning - June 2011

- ▶ *Issue:* Limit simvastatin 80mg because of increased risk of myopathy
- ▶ *Recommendations:*
 - Simvastatin 80mg should not be started in new patients
 - Maintain patients on simvastatin 80 mg if they have been taking this dose for 12 or more months without evidence of muscle toxicity
 - Place patients who do not meet their LDL goal on simvastatin 40 mg on alternative LDL lowering agents that provide greater LDL lowering (i.e. atorvastatin)

Generic Lipitor (atorvastatin) is available...



Atorvastatin became available 12/1/11


First generic will be an “authorized generic”

Frequently Asked Questions:

- ▶ If a patient already has a prescription with refills for Lipitor, will the RPh automatically fill it for atorvastatin?
- ▶ What should I know about the Lipitor \$4 coupon card?

Atorvastatin (<i>Lipitor</i>)	Simvastatin (<i>Zocor</i>)	Rosuvastatin (<i>Crestor</i>)
10mg	20mg	
20mg	40mg or Vytorin 10/10	5mg
40mg	80mg or Vytorin 10/20	10mg
80mg	Vytorin 10/40	20mg


Fibrates – Key Question #1



- Should a fibrate be prescribed to reduce cardiovascular risk?
 - ACCORD - no incremental risk benefit for diabetic patients when fenofibrate is added to a statin
 - FIELD - no reduction in the risk of coronary events by fenofibrate alone
 - VA-HIT - gemfibrozil reduced risk of cardiovascular events (before statins were common)


- Conclusion: Data is contradictory and inconclusive
 - Interesting sub-group analyses, but underpowered


Fibrates – key question #2




- What fibrate to prescribe?
 - Accord + FIELD = fenofibrate safe with statins
 - Fenofibrate + Liver = fenofibric acid
 - Fenofibrate + food = increased absorption

Fenofibrate





Tricor
Trilipix
Triglide
Fenoglide
Antara
Lipofen
Lofibra



Primatene Mist Phased Out as of 12/31/11



The Only OTC Asthma inhaler will no longer be available

- ▶ 3 million people used Primatene Mist in 2006
- ▶ Albuterol MDI will require provider visit and Rx
 - Rx + provider visit = increase cost to patient
 - No generic albuterol (earliest 2015)
 - ◆ MVP & Excellus - Proventil HFA 3rd tier
 - ◆ MVP & Excellus - ProAir, Ventolin HFA 2nd tier
 - High deductible insurance:
 - ◆ patient pays full cost up front before deductible
 - Patient assistance program directed to uninsured
- ▶ May see increase in ED / Urgent Care asthma cases
- ▶ Opportunity to link patients who need a PCP



Thank you!

