

Abstract

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Ezetimibe.

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BACKGROUND: Ezetimibe is a cholesterol absorption inhibitor that significantly lowers low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), and favourably affects triglyceride and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol blood levels in monotherapy and in combination with statins. Hepatic and extrahepatic (peripheral) cholesterol synthesis are well-known sources of cholesterol found in LDL-C. However, the emergence of ezetimibe has highlighted intestinal cholesterol absorption as an additional, important source of cholesterol in LDL-C, and has better illuminated how genetic factors, dietary content, pharmaceutical agents, and nuclear receptor activation (such as liver X receptors) all influence the relative contribution of these important cholesterol sources to LDL-C. In fact, investigations into ezetimibe have sometimes challenged existing scientific dogma, has prompted reconsideration of older data, and has helped create 'new' paradigms in cholesterol metabolism.

CONCLUSION: Thus, ezetimibe's efficacy, excellent tolerability, and safety has not only expanded potential treatment options for dyslipidaemic patients, but also has promoted exploration of new frontiers of lipid research towards a better understanding of cholesterol metabolism.

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