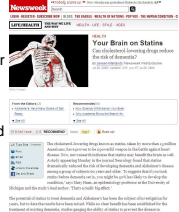


Scenario



Your patient is a 73 year old female in good health with normal cholesterol levels and no chronic diseases. However she comes to the clinic because she is starting to notice that she is forgetting things more often. Her husband says he hasn't noticed anything different about her, but she's fearful that she might be getting Alzheimer's. She said she read in *Newsweek* that *Lipitor* may help with the symptoms or maybe even prevent Alzheimer's disease. She wants your advice. Would this help? You recall a few patients complaining about memory problems while on statins but don't know the data on reducing the risk of AD or associated cognitive symptoms. You tell her you'll get back to her.



1

Background



- General knowledge about disorder, disease, condition
 - ✓ Manifestations
 - ✓ Etiology
 - ✓ Diagnosis
 - ✓ Treatment/prevention
 - ✓ Prognosis
 - ✓ Prevalence
- General knowledge about medical interventions
 - ✓ Dosing
 - ✓ Adverse effects
 - ✓ Contraindications
 - ✓ Drug interactions
 - ✓ Pharmacokinetics

2

Background sources



UpToDate The best source of drug indication, dosage, drug interaction and side effect information, as well as poison control information. *MICROMEDEX* is a collection of many different drug databases, including Martindale, the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR), DRUGDEX, DISEASEDEX, POISONDEX, and several alternative medicine databases.

UpToDate A resource for practitioners interested in efficiently filling holes in their knowledge base. *UpToDate* is a very large on-line medical text that contains short, well-written discussions of medical topics. Each review article is written by an expert in the field being discussed, and is designed to provide a quick way to get up to speed.

MD CONSULT Allows a user to search and retrieve full-text info from top 50 clinical textbooks. In addition, *MDConsult* includes full-text journals, best-practices guidelines, patient handouts and medical articles from the lay press, as well as some original content.

3

"...conscientious, explicit and judicious use of the current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients..." -- Sackett, DL

**END OF PART 1:
BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO
EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE AND
BACKGROUND SOURCES**