



American Heart Association®

life is why®

Check. Change. Control.  
**CHOLESTEROL™**



## CHOLESTEROL DRUGS

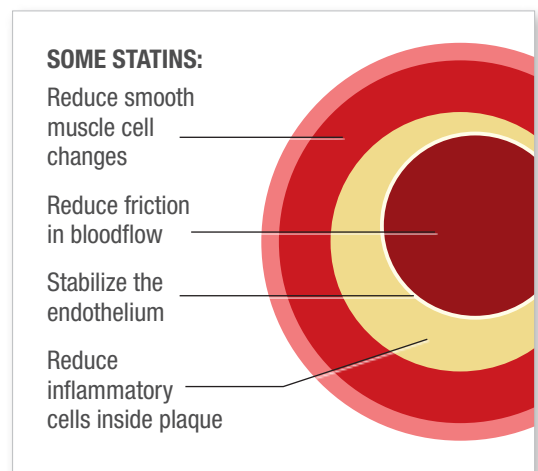
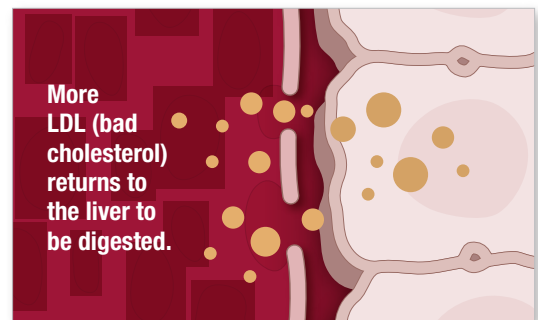
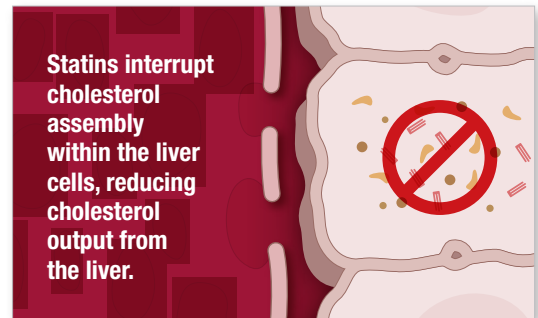
**PEOPLE WITH HIGH CHOLESTEROL** are often prescribed medications by their doctors to help lower their cholesterol. The most common cholesterol-lowering drugs are called **statins**.

Statins disrupt the production of cholesterol by blocking a specific enzyme inside cholesterol-producing liver cells. This results in less cholesterol being released into the bloodstream.

Some statins also reduce the inflammatory process caused by elevated cholesterol within blood vessel walls. When the body has a reduced reaction to the invading cholesterol, fewer macrophages are allowed to travel into the artery walls, where they would have formed foam cells and plaque.

When plaque stops growing inside an artery, the fibrous outer coating remains strong and less likely to rupture. This is called a **stable plaque**.

**Statins help to lower cholesterol and maintain the integrity of arteries.**



Learn more about cholesterol at: [heart.org/cholesterol](http://heart.org/cholesterol)

National Supporter

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