COMPOSITION
Anzitor® 10 Each film coated tablet contains Atorvastatin 10 mg as Atorvastatin Calcium INN.
Anzitor® 20 Each film coated tablet contains Atorvastatin 20 mg as Atorvastatin Calcium INN.
Anzitor® 40 Each film coated tablet contains Atorvastatin 40 mg as Atorvastatin Calcium INN.

PHARMACOLOGY
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 steroids, including cholesterol. Triglycerides (TG) and cholesterol in the liver are incorporated into VLDL, and released into the plasma for delivery to peripheral tissues. Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) is formed from VLDL, and is catabolised primarily through the high affinity LDL receptor.

Atorvastatin® lowers plasma cholesterol and lipoprotein levels by inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase and cholesterol synthesis 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.

PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES
Atorvastatin® as well as some of its metabolites are pharmacologically active in humans. The liver is the primary site of action and the principal site of cholesterol synthesis and LDL clearance.

PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTIES
Primary site of action and the principal site of cholesterol synthesis and LDL clearance. Atorvastatin is rapidly absorbed after oral administration; maximum plasma concentrations occur within 1 to 2 hours. Extent of absorption increases in proportion of Atorvastatin dose. The absolute bioavailability of Atorvastatin® is approximately 14% and the systemic availability of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitory activity is approximately 30%.

Distribution
Mean volume of distribution of Atorvastatin® is approximately 381 L. Atorvastatin® is > 98% bound to plasma proteins.

Metabolism
Atorvastatin® is extensively metabolized to ortho- and para-hydroxylated derivatives and various beta-oxidation products.

Excretion
Atorvastatin® is eliminated primarily in bile following hepatic and/or extrahepatic metabolism. However, the drug does not appear to undergo significant enterohepatic recirculation. Mean plasma elimination half-life of Atorvastatin® in human is approximately 14 hours. The half-life of inhibitory activity of HMG-CoA reductase is approximately 20-30 hours due to the contribution of active metabolites.

THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS
Atorvastatin® is indicated as an adjunct to diet for reduction of elevated total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, lipoprotein B, and triglycerides in patients with:
1. Primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and non-familial hypercholesterolemia and mixed dyslipidaemia (Fredrickson types IIA and IIb))
2. Elevated serum TG levels (Fredrickson type III)
3. Primary dysbetalipoproteinaemia (Fredrickson type IIb) who do not respond adequately to diet.
4. Homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (eg, LDL apheresis) or if such treatments are unavailable.

DOSAGE & ADMINISTRATION
Patients should be placed on a standard cholesterol-lowering diet before receiving Atorvastatin® and should continue on this diet during treatment with Atorvastatin®. The usual starting dose for the all the indications is 10 mg once daily. The dose range is 10 to 80 mg once daily. Doses should be individually adjusted according to baseline LDL-C levels, the goal of therapy, and patient response. Adjustment of dosage should be made at intervals of 4 weeks or more. Doses may be given at any time of day with or without food.

Children: Treatment experience in a paediatric population with dose of Atorvastatin® up to 80 mg/day is limited.
Geriatric (>70 years) use: The safety and efficacy of Atorvastatin® in this population is as similar as < 70 years of age patients with the dose up to 80 mg/day.
In patients with renal insufficiency: No dosage adjustment is required.

ADVERSE EFFECTS
Atorvastatin® is generally well tolerated. Adverse reactions have usually been mild and transient. Reversible myalgia is rare but significant side effect of the statins. The statins also cause headache, altered liver-function tests and gastrointestinal effects including abdominal pain, flatulence, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Thrombocytopenia, rash and hypersensitivity reactions have been reported rarely. Other side effects are reported with Atorvastatin therapy includes insomnia, angioedema, anorexia, asthma, pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, alopecia, pruritus, rash, impotence, chest pain, hypoglycaemia and hyperglycemia.

SPECIAL WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR USE
LIVER EFFECTS
Liver function tests should be performed before the initiation of treatment and periodically thereafter. Should an increase in ALT or AST of greater than 3 times the upper limit of normal persist, reduction of dose or withdrawal of Atorvastatin is recommended. Atorvastatin should be used with caution in patients who consume substantial quantities of alcohol and/or have a history of liver disease. Skeletal muscle effects: Uncomplicated myalgia has been reported in Atorvastatin®-treated patients. Atorvastatin therapy should be discontinued if markedly elevated CPK levels occur or myopathy is diagnosed or suspected. Should significant increases in CPK persist, reduction of dose or withdrawal of Atorvastatin is recommended. Rare cases of rhabdomyolysis with acute renal failure secondary to myoglobinuria have been reported with Atorvastatin and with other drugs in this class.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICAMENTS AND OTHER FORMS OF INTERACTIONS
The risk of myopathy during treatment with other drugs in this class is increased with concurrent administration of cyclosporin, fibrin acid derivatives, erythromycin, azole antifungals, or macrolides (macrolide antibiotics and azole antifungals). The effect of inducers of cytochrome P450 3A4 (rifampicin or phenytoin) on Atorvastatin is unknown. Patients should be closely monitored if Atorvastatin is added with inhibitors of P450 3A4 (macrolide antibiotics and azole antifungals). No interaction was found with cimetidine.

CONTRAINDICATIONS
Atorvastatin is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to any component of this medication, active liver disease or unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases, during pregnancy, while breast-feeding, and in women of child-bearing potential not using appropriate contraceptive measures.

USE IN PREGNANCY AND LACTATION
Atorvastatin is contraindicated in pregnancy and while breast-feeding. Women of child-bearing potential should use appropriate contraceptive measures. If the woman become pregnant while taking Atorvastatin, it should be discontinued.

OVERDOSAGE
Specific treatment is not available for Atorvastatin overdose. If overdose occurs, the patient should be treated symptomatically and supportive measures instituted, as required. Liver function tests and serum CPK levels should be monitored. Due to extensive drug binding to plasma proteins, haemodialysis is not expected to significantly enhance Atorvastatin clearance.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PRECAUTION
Store below 25°C. Protect from light and moisture. Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

HOW SUPPLIED
Anzitor® 10 Each box contains 50 film coated tablets in Alu-Alu blister pack.
Anzitor® 20 Each box contains 50 film coated tablets in Alu-Alu blister pack.
Anzitor® 40 Each box contains 10 film coated tablets in Alu-Alu blister pack.