Statins for primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases

Numbers for people aged 40 years and older who either took a placebo or statins and were observed on average for 3 years (between 6 months and 6 years). They showed a higher risk of cardiovascular disease. However, they had not experienced a cardiovascular event (e.g. heart attack) thus far.

100 people who took a placebo

100 people who took statins

- How many people had a heart attack? 2
- How many people had a stroke? 2
- How many people died from cardiovascular events? 2
- How many people died overall? 4
- How many people experienced severe adverse events*? 13
- How many people experienced muscle pain (myalgia) or muscle weakness as a possible adverse event? 9
- How many patients developed type 2 diabetes as an adverse event? 3

Remaining people 3

*Adverse events were life-threatening, fatal, led to permanent disabilities, led to (prolonged) hospital stays, or were cancer diagnoses.


Last update: Januar 2017

www.harding-center.mpg.de/en/fact/boxes