Examining the Nocebo Effect of Statins: Statin Adverse Events Reported in the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System

Background: This study aimed to evaluate whether the high frequency of reported statin adverse effects (AEs) may be associated with the nocebo effect.

2010 — 2019

2,994,487 overall AE reports

Retrospective, post marketing surveillance cohort Study

Database: The FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS)

The statins in the analysis:

R — Rosuvastatin

A — Atorvastatin

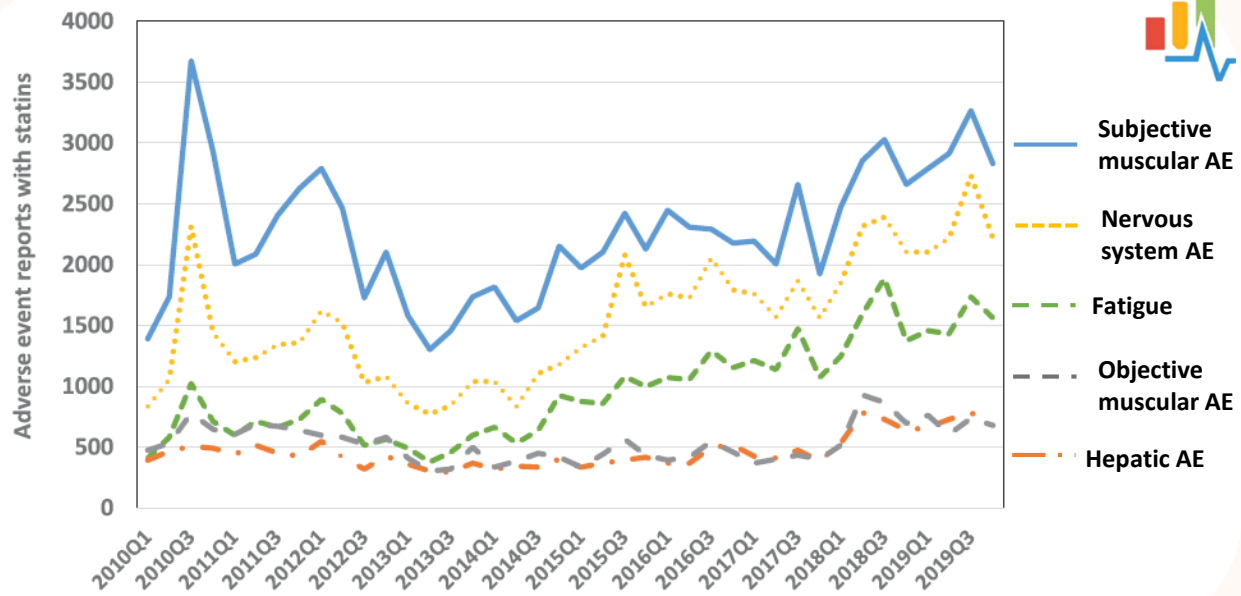
L — Lovastatin

P — Pravastatin

S — Simvastatin

Subjective reported AEs: Fatigue, subjective muscular AEs(myalgia, arthralgia, muscular weakness, muscle spasms, pain in extremity), nervous system AEs

Objective AEs: Objective muscular AEs(rhabdomyolysis, myopathy, blood creatine phosphokinase increased, chromaturia, hematuria), hepatic AEs.



- There were **significantly more subjective AEs**, ones that have been associated with a **nocebo effect**, than objective AEs reported for statins in the last decade.
- **Simvastatin** exhibits **higher** signals for **objective muscular AEs** than that of all other statins.

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