

Vytorin and Zetia are drugs prescribed to lower cholesterol levels. These drugs are commonly prescribed to patients who are unable to control their cholesterol levels through diet and exercise.

In February of 2008, the Associated Press reported that a Vytorin study was completed in April 2006, but the companies didn't release partial results until January of 2008, and then only after a congressional inquiry into the delay.

The study questions the effectiveness of Vytorin, as it showed no significant benefit in slowing atherosclerosis (plaque buildup) when compared to using other, much less expensive, generic statin drugs alone. In fact, while the results were not statistically significant, patients on Vytorin had more plaque growth than patients taking only simvastatin.

By withholding information regarding the drug's effectiveness, the manufacturer caused millions of Americans to purchase the more expensive Vytorin over other less expensive cholesterol medicines. Generic statins are generally much less expensive-- costing on average-- 1/3 the cost of Vytorin.