

Supplementary material:

Statin adherence and risk of acute cardiovascular events among women: a cohort study accounting for time-dependent confounding affected by previous adherence

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Table S1. Definitions of exclusion criteria.

| Definition | ATC codes | Reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnosis | Other code | Data Source | Time of measurement |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|--|-------------|------------------------------|
| Treatment initiation with cerivastatin | C10AA06 | | | | SII | t_0 |
| Evidence of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease | | | | | | |
| Coronary heart disease | | 206, 213, 280 | I20–I25 | | FCR SII | $t_{-3} - t_0$ $\leq t_0$ |
| CABG/PTCA | | | | FNA, FNB, FNC, FND, FNE, FN1AT, FN1BT, FN1YT, TFN40, TFN50 | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_0$ |
| Clopidogrel | | 315 | | | SII | $\leq t_0$ |
| Nitrates | C01DA | | | | SII | $t_{-3} - t_0$ |
| Cerebrovascular diseases and TIA | | | I60–I66, I68–I69, G45–G46 | | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_0$ |
| Carotid endarterectomy or thrombolytic therapy | | | | PAF, AAL120 | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_0$ |
| Atherosclerosis | | | I70 | | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_0$ |
| Peripheral arterial disease | | | | PFH, PDQ, PEQ, PFQ, PF1AT, PF1BT, PE1AT, PE1BT | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_0$ |
| Aneurysm | | | I71 | | | |
| Use of other lipid lowering medications | C10A (excl. C10AA) | | | | SII | $t_{-3} - t_0$ |
| Long-term institutionalization | | | | date of decision | SII | $\leq t_1$ |
| Death | | | | | SII | $t_0 - t_1$ |
| Acute cardiovascular event | | | | | | |
| Acute coronary syndrome | | | I20.0, I21, I22 as a primary diagnosis | | FCR | $t_0 - t_1$ |
| Acute ischemic stroke | | | I63 as a primary diagnosis | | FCR | $t_0 - t_1$ |

Abbreviations: ATC, Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical; CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; FCR, Finnish Care Register; ICD, International Classification of Diseases; PTCA, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty; SII, Social Insurance Institution; TIA, transient ischemic attack.

t_0 = date of the cohort entry = date of the first statin dispensation, t_{-3} = three years prior to statin initiation, t_1 = one year since statin initiation

Table S2. Definitions of outcomes.

| Definition | ICD-10 code/Medical procedure code | Data Source |
|---|--|--------------------|
| MAIN OUTCOME | | |
| Acute cardiovascular event | As a primary diagnosis: | |
| Acute coronary syndrome | I20.0, I21, I22 | FCR |
| Acute ischemic stroke | I63 | FCR |
| OUTCOMES IN SENSITIVITY ANALYSES | | |
| Composite outcome | | |
| Acute coronary syndrome | I20.0, I21, I22 | FCR |
| Acute ischemic stroke | I63 | FCR |
| CABG/PTCA | FNA, FNB, FNC, FND, FNE, FN1AT, FN1BT, FN1YT, TFN40, TFN50 | FCR |
| Death from any cause | | SII |
| Low-energy fracture | | |
| As a primary or secondary diagnosis: | | FCR |
| Hip fracture | S32.1–S32.4, S72.0–S72.8 | FCR |
| Wrist fracture | S52.0, S62.4 | FCR |
| Ankle fracture | S82.1–S82.7, S92.0, S92.3 | FCR |
| Forearm fracture | S42.2–S42.4 | FCR |

Abbreviations: CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; FCR, Finnish Care Register; ICD, International Classification of Diseases; PTCA, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty; SII, Social Insurance Institution.

Table S3. Definitions and classifications of baseline characteristics.

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Age, years | | | | | SII | t ₀ |
| 45–49 | | | | | | |
| 50–54 | | | | | | |
| 55–59 | | | | | | |
| 60–64 | | | | | | |
| University hospital catchment area | | | | | SF | t ₀ |
| Helsinki | | | | | | |
| Turku | | | | | | |
| Tampere | | | | | | |
| Kuopio | | | | | | |
| Oulu | | | | | | |
| Marital status | | | | | SF | t ₀ |
| Married, partner in a registered partnership, separated | | | | | | |
| Divorced or widowed | | | | | | |
| Unmarried | | | | | | |
| SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Quartiles of income, euros | | | | | SF | t ₀ |
| ≤11,200 | | | | | | |
| 11,300–18,700 | | | | | | |
| 18,800–25,400 | | | | | | |
| ≥25,500 | | | | | | |
| Educational level | | | | | SF | t ₀ |
| Basic level | | | | | | |
| Secondary level | | | | | | |
| Higher-degree level | | | | | | |
| Labor market status | | | | | SF | t ₀ |
| Employed labor force | | | | | | |
| Unemployed | | | | | | |
| Pensioner or unemployment pensioner | | | | | | |
| Others outside the labor force | | | | | | |

Table continues

Table S3. Continued

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|--|--------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| FACTORS DESCRIBING STATIN THERAPY | | | | | | |
| Statin at baseline | | | | | | t_0 |
| Simvastatin | C10AA01 | | | | SII | |
| Lovastatin | C10AA02 | | | | SII | |
| Pravastatin | C10AA03 | | | | SII | |
| Fluvastatin | C10AA04 | | | | SII | |
| Atrovastatin | C10AA05 | | | | SII | |
| Rosuvastatin | C10AA07 | | | | SII | |
| Year of statin initiation | C10AA | | | | SII | t_0 |
| 2001 | | | | | | |
| 2002 | | | | | | |
| 2003 | | | | | | |
| 2004 | | | | | | |
| Intensity of statin therapy^a | | | | Strength and type of statin | SII | t_0 |
| Low | | | | | | |
| Moderate | | | | | | |
| High | | | | | | |
| CARDIAC COMORBIDITY FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Diabetes (yes/no) | | | E10– E14 | | FCR | $t_3 - t_0$ |
| | A10A or A10B | 103 | | | SII | $\leq t_0$ |
| Insulin (yes/no) | A10A | | | | SII | $t_1 - t_0$ |
| Hypertensive diseases (yes/no) | | | I10– I15 | | FCR | $t_3 - t_0$ |
| | | 205 | | | SII | $\leq t_0$ |
| Heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency (yes/no) | | | I50 | | FCR | $t_3 - t_0$ |
| | | 201 | | | SII | $\leq t_0$ |
| Cardiac arrhythmia (yes/no) | | | I46–I49 | | FCR | $t_3 - t_0$ |
| | | 207 | | | SII | $\leq t_0$ |
| Dysfunctions of lipid metabolism (yes/no) | | | E78 | | FCR | $t_3 - t_0$ |
| | | 211 | | | SII | $\leq t_0$ |

Table continues

Table S3. Continued

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|---|--|--|---|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Number of concurrent CVD medications 0 1 2 3–6 | Total number of different ATC codes related to CVD (B01, C01, C02, C03, C07, C08, C09) | | | | SII | $t_1 - t_0$ |
| Charlson Comorbidity Index 0 ≥ 1 | | | | | FCR | $t_1 - t_0$ |
| NON-CARDIAC COMORBIDITY FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Rheumatoid arthritis (yes/no) | | 202 | M05, M06 or M45 | | FCR SII | $t_3 - t_0$ $\leq t_0$ |
| Cancer (yes/no) | | | C00–C99 or D00–D09 | | FCR SII | $t_3 - t_0$ $\leq t_0$ |
| | L01 | 115–117, 128, 130, 180, 184, 185, 189, 311, 312, 316 | | | SII | $t_1 - t_0$ |
| Mental disorders (yes/no) | | 112, 188 | F20–F31 | | FCR SII SII | $t_3 - t_0$ $\leq t_0$ $t_1 - t_0$ |
| | N05A | | | | | |
| Depression (yes/no) | | | F32–F34 | | FCR SII | $t_3 - t_0$ $t_1 - t_0$ |
| | N06A | | | | | |
| Respiratory diseases (yes/no) | | 203 | J44–J46 | | FCR SII SII | $t_3 - t_0$ $\leq t_0$ $t_1 - t_0$ |
| | R03 | | | | | |
| Alcohol-related diseases (yes/no) | | | F10, Z50.2, Z71.4, G31.2, G40.51, G62.1, G72.1, K29.2, K85.2, K86.0, K86.01, K86.08, I42.6, R78.0, T51.0, Y91.1, Y91.2, Y91.3, Y91.9, E24.4, K70.4, K70 | | FCR | $t_3 - t_0$ |

Table continues

Table S3. Continued

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| NSAID (yes/no) | M01A excluding M01AX05 | | | | SII | $t_{-1} - t_0$ |
| Anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives (yes/no) | N05B or N05C | | | | SII | $t_{-1} - t_0$ |
| Corticosteroids for systemic use (yes/no) | H02A | | | | SII | $t_{-1} - t_0$ |
| Hormone therapy (yes/no) | G03C or G03F | | | | SII | $t_{-1} - t_0$ |
| Total number of concurrent medications | Total number of different ATC codes | | | | SII | 120 days before $t_0 - t_0$ |
| 1–2 | | | | | | |
| 3–5 | | | | | | |
| 6–31 | | | | | | |
| Number of in-hospital days | | | | | FCR | $t_{-1} - t_0$ |
| 0 | | | | | | |
| 1–2 | | | | | | |
| 3–7 | | | | | | |
| 8–321 | | | | | | |

Abbreviations: ATC, Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical; CHD, coronary heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular diseases; FCR, Finnish Care Register; ICD, International Classification of Diseases; NSAID, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications; SII, Social Insurance Institution; SF, Statistics Finland.

t_{-3} = three years prior to statin initiation

t_{-1} = one year prior to statin initiation

t_0 = date of statin initiation

^aIntensity of statin therapy:

Low: Fluvastatin 20–40mg, lovastatin 20mg, pravastatin 10–20mg, simvastatin 5–10mg.

Moderate: Atorvastatin 10–20mg, fluvastatin 80mg, lovastatin 40mg, pravastatin 40mg, rosuvastatin 10mg, simvastatin 20–40mg.

High: Atorvastatin 40–80mg, rosuvastatin 20–40mg, simvastatin 80mg.

Table S4. Definitions and classifications of potential time-dependent confounders at time t_i , $i=1,2,3$.

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Marital status Married, partner in a registered partnership, separated Divorced or widowed Unmarried | | | | | SF | t_i |
| SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Quartiles of income | | | | | SF | t_i |
| Labor market status Employed labor force Unemployed Pensioner or unemployment pensioner Others outside the labor force | | | | | SF | t_i |
| FACTORS DESCRIBING STATIN THERAPY | | | | | | |
| Increase in intensity of statin therapy^a (yes/no) | | | | Strength and type of statin | SII | latest prescription in $t_{i-1} - t_i$ vs. latest prescription in $t_{i-2} - t_{i-1}$ |
| CARDIAC COMORBIDITY FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Diabetes (yes/no) | A10A or A10B | 103 | E10–E14 | | FCR SII SII | $\leq t_i$ $\leq t_i$ $\leq t_i$ |
| Insulin (yes/no) | A10A | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Hypertensive diseases (yes/no) | | 205 | I10–I15 | | FCR SII | $\leq t_i$ $\leq t_i$ |
| Heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency (yes/no) | | 201 | I50 | | FCR SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ $\leq t_i$ |

Table continues

Table S4. Continued

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|--|--|----------------------------|---|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Cardiac arrhythmia (yes/no) | | 207 | I46–I49 | | FCR | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| | | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Dysfunctions of lipid metabolism (yes/no) | | 211 | E78 | | FCR | $\leq t_i$ |
| | | | | | SII | $\leq t_i$ |
| Number of concurrent CVD medications | Total number of different ATC codes related to CVD (B01, C01, C02, C03, C07, C08, C09) | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| 0 | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| ≥ 3 | | | | | | |
| Charlson comorbidity index | | | | | FCR | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| 0 | | | | | | |
| ≥ 1 | | | | | | |
| Chronic CHD (yes/no) | | 206, 213, 280 | | | SII | $\leq t_i$ |
| Chronic CHD hospitalization (yes/no) | | | I20–I25 | | FCR | $t_0 - t_i$ |
| Note: I20.0, I21–I22 in secondary diagnoses only | | | | | | |
| Medical procedure related to CHD (CABG/PTCA) (yes/no) | | | | FNA, FNB, FNC, FND, FNE, FN1AT, FN1BT, FN1YT, TFN40, TFN50 | FCR | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Chronic cerebrovascular diseases and TIA (yes/no) | | | I60–I66, I68, I69, G45–G46 | | FCR | $t_0 - t_i$ |
| Note: I63 in secondary diagnoses only | | | | | | |
| Atherosclerosis (yes/no) | | | I70, I71 | | FCR | $t_0 - t_i$ |
| (including peripheral arterial diseases & aneurysm) | | | | PFH, PDQ, PEQ, PFQ, PF1AT, PF1BT, PE1AT, PE1BT | FCR | $\leq t_i$ |
| Nitrates (yes/no) | C01DA | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |

Table continues

Table S4. Continued

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|--|------------------------|--|---|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| NON-CARDIAC COMORBIDITY FACTORS | | | | | | |
| Rheumatoid arthritis (yes/no) | | | M05, M06 or M45 | | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_i$ |
| | | 202 | | | SII | $\leq t_i$ |
| Cancer (yes/no) | | | C00–C99 or D00–D09 | | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_i$ |
| | | 115–117, 128, 130, 180, 184, 185, 189, 311, 312, 316 | | | SII | $\leq t_i$ |
| | L01 | | | | SII | $t_{-1} - t_i$ |
| Mental disorders (yes/no) | | | F20–F31 | | FCR | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| | | 112, 188 | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| | N05A | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Depression (yes/no) | | | F32–F34 | | FCR | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Respiratory diseases (yes/no) | | | J44–J46 | | FCR | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| | | 203 | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| | R03 | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Alcohol-related diseases (yes/no) | | | F10, Z50.2, Z71.4, G31.2, G40.51, G62.1, G72.1, K29.2, K85.2, K86.0, K86.01, K86.08, I42.6, R78.0, T51.0, Y91.1, Y91.2, Y91.3, Y91.9, E24.4, K70.4, K70 | | FCR | $t_{-3} - t_i$ |
| NSAID (yes/no) | M01A excluding M01AX05 | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |

Table continues

Table S4. Continued

| Definition | ATC code | Special reimbursement code | ICD-10 code in primary or secondary diagnoses | Other specifications | Data source | Time of measurement |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives (yes/no) | N05B or N05C | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Corticosteroids for systemic use (yes/no) | H02A | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Hormone therapy (yes/no) | G03C or G03F | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| Total number of concurrent medications | Total number of different ATC codes | | | | SII | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| 0–4 | | | | | | |
| 5–9 | | | | | | |
| ≥10 | | | | | | |
| Number of in-hospital days | | | | | FCR | $t_{i-1} - t_i$ |
| 0 | | | | | | |
| 1–2 | | | | | | |
| 3–7 | | | | | | |
| ≥8 | | | | | | |

Abbreviations: ATC, Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical; CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; CHD, coronary heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular diseases; FCR, Finnish Care Register; ICD, International Classification of Diseases; NSAID, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications; PTCA, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty; SII, Social Insurance Institution; SF, Statistics Finland; TIA, transient ischemic attack.

t_{-3} = three years prior to statin initiation

t_{-1} = one year prior to statin initiation

t_0 = date of statin initiation

t_1 = one year since statin initiation

t_2 = two years since statin initiation

t_3 = three years since statin initiation

^aIntensity of statin therapy:

Low: Fluvastatin 20–40mg, lovastatin 20mg, pravastatin 10–20mg, simvastatin 5–10mg.

Moderate: Atorvastatin 10–20mg, fluvastatin 80mg, lovastatin 40mg, pravastatin 40mg, rosuvastatin 10mg, simvastatin 20–40mg.

High: Atorvastatin 40–80mg, rosuvastatin 20–40mg, simvastatin 80mg.

Table S5. Distributions of baseline characteristics according to adherence level during the first adherence ascertainment year.

| | Non-adherers (PDC <80%) (n = 20,120) | | Adherers (PDC ≥80%) (n = 22,687) | | SD |
|---|--|------|--|------|-------|
| | n | % | n | % | |
| | Age, years | | | | |
| 45–49 | 2,423 | 12.0 | 2,238 | 9.9 | 0.070 |
| 50–54 | 5,286 | 26.3 | 5,409 | 23.8 | 0.056 |
| 55–59 | 6,621 | 32.9 | 7,949 | 35.0 | 0.045 |
| 60–64 | 5,790 | 28.8 | 7,091 | 31.3 | 0.054 |
| University hospital catchment area | | | | | |
| Helsinki | 6,450 | 32.1 | 7,452 | 32.9 | 0.017 |
| Turku | 2,657 | 13.2 | 2,865 | 12.6 | 0.017 |
| Tampere | 4,352 | 21.6 | 5,058 | 22.3 | 0.016 |
| Kuopio | 3,716 | 18.5 | 4,532 | 20.0 | 0.038 |
| Oulu | 2,945 | 14.6 | 2,780 | 12.3 | 0.070 |
| Marital status | | | | | |
| Married, partner in a registered partnership, separated | 13,087 | 65.0 | 15,347 | 67.6 | 0.055 |
| Divorced or widowed | 5,282 | 26.3 | 5,084 | 22.4 | 0.090 |
| Unmarried | 1,751 | 8.7 | 2,256 | 9.9 | 0.043 |
| Quartiles of income, € | | | | | |
| ≤11,200 | 5,070 | 25.2 | 5,704 | 25.1 | 0.001 |
| 11,300–18,700 | 4,996 | 24.8 | 5,694 | 25.1 | 0.006 |
| 18,800–25,400 | 5,047 | 25.1 | 5,635 | 24.8 | 0.006 |
| ≥25,500 | 5,007 | 24.9 | 5,654 | 24.9 | 0.001 |
| Educational level | | | | | |
| Basic level | 7,861 | 39.1 | 9,222 | 40.7 | 0.032 |
| Secondary level | 7,357 | 36.6 | 8,008 | 35.3 | 0.026 |
| Higher-degree level | 4,902 | 24.4 | 5,457 | 24.1 | 0.007 |
| Labor market status | | | | | |
| Employed labor force | 11,562 | 57.5 | 12,447 | 54.9 | 0.052 |
| Unemployed | 2,029 | 10.1 | 2,277 | 10.0 | 0.002 |
| Pensioner or unemployment pensioner | 5,705 | 28.4 | 7,124 | 31.4 | 0.067 |
| Others outside the labor force | 824 | 4.1 | 839 | 3.7 | 0.021 |
| Statin at baseline | | | | | |
| Simvastatin | 7,801 | 38.8 | 8,768 | 38.7 | 0.003 |
| Lovastatin | 373 | 1.9 | 337 | 1.5 | 0.029 |
| Pravastatin | 1,421 | 7.1 | 1,046 | 4.6 | 0.105 |
| Fluvastatin | 1,485 | 7.4 | 1,818 | 8.0 | 0.024 |
| Atorvastatin | 7,147 | 35.5 | 8,095 | 35.7 | 0.003 |
| Rosuvastatin | 1,893 | 9.4 | 2,623 | 11.6 | 0.070 |
| Year of statin initiation | | | | | |
| 2001 | 4,566 | 22.7 | 4,459 | 19.7 | 0.074 |
| 2002 | 4,695 | 23.3 | 4,858 | 21.4 | 0.046 |
| 2003 | 4,925 | 24.5 | 5,610 | 24.7 | 0.006 |
| 2004 | 5,934 | 29.5 | 7,760 | 34.2 | 0.101 |

Table continues

Table S5. Continued

| | Non-adherers (PDC <80%) (n = 20,120) | | Adherers (PDC ≥80%) (n = 22,687) | | SD |
|---|--|------|--|------|-------|
| | n | % | n | % | |
| Intensity of statin therapy | | | | | |
| Low ^a | 5,954 | 29.6 | 7,114 | 31.4 | 0.038 |
| Moderate ^b | 14,057 | 69.9 | 15,512 | 68.4 | 0.032 |
| High ^c | 109 | 0.5 | 61 | 0.3 | 0.043 |
| Diabetes | 2,040 | 10.1 | 2,732 | 12.0 | 0.061 |
| Use of insulin | 605 | 3.0 | 765 | 3.4 | 0.021 |
| Hypertensive diseases | 5,246 | 26.1 | 6,485 | 28.6 | 0.056 |
| Heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency | 99 | 0.5 | 112 | 0.5 | 0.000 |
| Cardiac arrhythmia | 468 | 2.3 | 509 | 2.2 | 0.006 |
| Dysfunctions of lipid metabolism | 226 | 1.1 | 222 | 1.0 | 0.014 |
| Number of concurrent CVD medications | | | | | |
| 0 | 10,443 | 51.9 | 10,812 | 47.7 | 0.085 |
| 1 | 5,470 | 27.2 | 6,682 | 29.5 | 0.050 |
| 2 | 3,078 | 15.3 | 3,781 | 16.7 | 0.037 |
| 3–6 | 1,129 | 5.6 | 1,412 | 6.2 | 0.026 |
| Charlson Comorbidity Index ≥1 | 1,307 | 6.5 | 1,583 | 7.0 | 0.019 |
| Rheumatoid arthritis | 536 | 2.7 | 614 | 2.7 | 0.003 |
| Cancer | 706 | 3.5 | 911 | 4.0 | 0.026 |
| Mental disorders | 478 | 2.4 | 727 | 3.2 | 0.050 |
| Depression | 2,624 | 13.0 | 3,089 | 13.6 | 0.017 |
| Respiratory diseases | 3,418 | 17.0 | 3,502 | 15.4 | 0.042 |
| Alcohol-related diseases | 143 | 0.7 | 101 | 0.5 | 0.035 |
| NSAID | 6,780 | 33.7 | 7,456 | 32.9 | 0.018 |
| Anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives | 427 | 2.1 | 485 | 2.1 | 0.001 |
| Corticosteroids for systemic use | 909 | 4.5 | 964 | 4.3 | 0.013 |
| Hormone therapy | 7,654 | 38.0 | 9,398 | 41.4 | 0.069 |
| Total number of concurrent medications | | | | | |
| 1–2 | 7,085 | 35.2 | 7,289 | 32.1 | 0.065 |
| 3–5 | 7,202 | 35.8 | 8,037 | 35.4 | 0.001 |
| 6–31 | 5,833 | 29.0 | 7,361 | 32.5 | 0.077 |
| Number of in-hospital days | | | | | |
| 0 | 12,193 | 60.6 | 14,222 | 62.7 | 0.043 |
| 1–2 | 3,902 | 19.4 | 4,099 | 18.1 | 0.034 |
| 3–7 | 2,656 | 13.2 | 2,825 | 12.5 | 0.022 |
| 8–321 | 1,369 | 6.8 | 1,541 | 6.8 | 0.000 |

Abbreviations: CVD, cardiovascular disease; NSAID, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications; PDC, proportion of days covered; SD, standardized difference.

^a Fluvastatin 20–40mg, lovastatin 20mg, pravastatin 10–20mg, simvastatin 5–10mg.

^b Atorvastatin 10–20mg, fluvastatin 80mg, lovastatin 40mg, pravastatin 40mg, rosuvastatin 10mg, simvastatin 20–40mg.

^c Atorvastatin 40–80mg, rosuvastatin 20–40mg, simvastatin 80mg.

Table S6. Follow-up year specific un-weighted and stabilized inverse probability of treatment weighted (model 3) standardized differences comparing distributions of baseline characteristics and time-dependent confounders between the adherers and the non-adherers.

| | At the beginning of the 1 st follow-up year (t ₁) | | At the beginning of the 2 nd follow-up year (t ₂) | | At the beginning of the 3 rd follow-up year (t ₃) | |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD |
| BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS | | | | | | |
| Socio-demographic factors | | | | | | |
| Age, years | | | | | | |
| 45–49 | 0.070 | 0.000 | 0.076 | 0.002 | 0.080 | 0.003 |
| 50–54 | 0.056 | 0.000 | 0.052 | 0.001 | 0.061 | 0.003 |
| 55–59 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.035 | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.001 |
| 60–64 | 0.054 | 0.000 | 0.065 | 0.000 | 0.073 | 0.001 |
| University hospital catchment area | | | | | | |
| Helsinki | 0.017 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 |
| Turku | 0.017 | 0.000 | 0.031 | 0.000 | 0.025 | 0.003 |
| Tampere | 0.016 | 0.000 | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.018 | 0.002 |
| Kuopio | 0.038 | 0.001 | 0.037 | 0.001 | 0.051 | 0.000 |
| Oulu | 0.070 | 0.001 | 0.057 | 0.001 | 0.041 | 0.001 |
| Marital status | | | | | | |
| Married, partner in a registered partnership, separated | 0.055 | 0.000 | 0.044 | 0.001 | 0.046 | 0.000 |
| Divorced or widowed | 0.090 | 0.000 | 0.081 | 0.001 | 0.075 | 0.002 |
| Unmarried | 0.043 | 0.000 | 0.048 | 0.001 | 0.035 | 0.003 |
| Socio-economic factors | | | | | | |
| Quartiles of income, € | | | | | | |
| ≤11,300 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.005 | 0.001 | 0.007 | 0.001 |
| 11,400–18,700 | 0.006 | 0.001 | 0.018 | 0.002 | 0.035 | 0.000 |
| 18,800–25,400 | 0.006 | 0.001 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.001 |
| ≥25,500 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.015 | 0.001 | 0.031 | 0.000 |
| Educational level | | | | | | |
| Basic level | 0.032 | 0.000 | 0.033 | 0.001 | 0.035 | 0.001 |
| Secondary level | 0.026 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.018 | 0.001 |
| Higher-degree level | 0.007 | 0.001 | 0.016 | 0.001 | 0.020 | 0.000 |
| Labor market status | | | | | | |
| Employed labor force | 0.052 | 0.000 | 0.062 | 0.001 | 0.072 | 0.001 |
| Unemployed | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.000 |
| Pensioner or unemployment pensioner | 0.067 | 0.000 | 0.083 | 0.000 | 0.090 | 0.000 |
| Others outside the labor force | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.000 | 0.030 | 0.001 |

Table continues

Table S6. Continued

| | At the beginning of the 1 st follow-up year (t ₁) | | At the beginning of the 2 nd follow-up year (t ₂) | | At the beginning of the 3 rd follow-up year (t ₃) | |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD |
| Factors describing statin therapy | | | | | | |
| Statin at baseline | | | | | | |
| Simvastatin | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.002 | 0.001 | 0.038 | 0.001 |
| Lovastatin | 0.029 | 0.001 | 0.023 | 0.001 | 0.017 | 0.000 |
| Pravastatin | 0.105 | 0.000 | 0.078 | 0.004 | 0.060 | 0.006 |
| Fluvastatin | 0.024 | 0.001 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.001 |
| Atorvastatin | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.006 | 0.001 | 0.031 | 0.004 |
| Rosuvastatin | 0.070 | 0.001 | 0.050 | 0.000 | 0.019 | 0.001 |
| Year of statin initiation | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 0.074 | 0.000 | 0.061 | 0.001 | 0.061 | 0.002 |
| 2002 | 0.046 | 0.000 | 0.046 | 0.001 | 0.017 | 0.000 |
| 2003 | 0.006 | 0.000 | 0.041 | 0.001 | 0.018 | 0.003 |
| 2004 | 0.101 | 0.000 | 0.057 | 0.001 | 0.021 | 0.004 |
| Intensity of statin therapy | | | | | | |
| Low | 0.038 | 0.000 | 0.048 | 0.001 | 0.060 | 0.004 |
| Moderate | 0.032 | 0.000 | 0.044 | 0.000 | 0.057 | 0.004 |
| High | 0.043 | 0.001 | 0.027 | 0.003 | 0.022 | 0.002 |
| Cardiac comorbidity factors | | | | | | |
| Diabetes | 0.061 | 0.000 | 0.068 | 0.001 | 0.078 | 0.001 |
| Insulin | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.032 | 0.001 |
| Hypertensive diseases | 0.056 | 0.000 | 0.073 | 0.002 | 0.093 | 0.002 |
| Heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.011 | 0.004 | 0.007 | 0.004 |
| Cardiac arrhythmia | 0.006 | 0.001 | 0.013 | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.002 |
| Dysfunctions of lipid metabolism | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.001 | 0.020 | 0.001 |
| Number of concurrent CVD medications | | | | | | |
| 0 | 0.085 | 0.000 | 0.092 | 0.002 | 0.097 | 0.000 |
| 1 | 0.050 | 0.000 | 0.048 | 0.002 | 0.040 | 0.003 |
| 2 | 0.037 | 0.000 | 0.041 | 0.002 | 0.056 | 0.000 |
| 3–6 | 0.027 | 0.000 | 0.039 | 0.002 | 0.044 | 0.005 |
| Charlson Comorbidity Index ≥ 1 | 0.019 | 0.000 | 0.031 | 0.000 | 0.022 | 0.005 |

Table continues

Table S6. Continued

| | At the beginning of the 1 st follow-up year (t ₁) | | At the beginning of the 2 nd follow-up year (t ₂) | | At the beginning of the 3 rd follow-up year (t ₃) | |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD |
| Non-cardiac comorbidity factors | | | | | | |
| Rheumatoid arthritis | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.011 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.005 |
| Cancer | 0.026 | 0.000 | 0.023 | 0.001 | 0.012 | 0.007 |
| Mental disorders | 0.050 | 0.001 | 0.050 | 0.001 | 0.051 | 0.004 |
| Depression | 0.017 | 0.001 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.000 |
| Respiratory diseases | 0.042 | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.002 | 0.024 | 0.001 |
| Alcohol-related diseases | 0.035 | 0.001 | 0.032 | 0.003 | 0.036 | 0.006 |
| NSAID | 0.018 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.008 | 0.001 |
| Anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.005 | 0.001 |
| Corticosteroids for systematic use | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.006 | 0.002 | 0.007 | 0.000 |
| Hormone therapy | 0.069 | 0.001 | 0.059 | 0.002 | 0.056 | 0.002 |
| Total number of concurrent medications | | | | | | |
| 1–2 | 0.065 | 0.000 | 0.070 | 0.000 | 0.066 | 0.000 |
| 3–5 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.008 | 0.001 | 0.005 | 0.001 |
| 6–31 | 0.077 | 0.000 | 0.093 | 0.001 | 0.084 | 0.002 |
| Number of in-hospital days | | | | | | |
| 0 | 0.043 | 0.000 | 0.027 | 0.001 | 0.036 | 0.001 |
| 1–2 | 0.034 | 0.000 | 0.010 | 0.003 | 0.028 | 0.003 |
| 3–7 | 0.022 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.015 | 0.000 |
| 8–321 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.008 | 0.002 | 0.006 | 0.006 |
| LAGGED TIME-DEPENDENT CONFOUNDERS | | | | | | |
| Socio-demographic factors | | | | | | |
| Marital status | | | | | | |
| Married, partner in a registered partnership, separated | | | 0.048 | 0.001 | 0.034 | 0.000 |
| Divorced or widowed | | | 0.046 | 0.002 | 0.053 | 0.001 |
| Unmarried | | | 0.083 | 0.003 | 0.080 | 0.001 |
| Socio-economic factors | | | | | | |
| Quartiles of income | | | | | | |
| 1st quartile | | | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.008 |
| 2nd quartile | | | 0.018 | 0.003 | 0.032 | 0.004 |
| 3rd quartile | | | 0.012 | 0.002 | 0.001 | 0.016 |
| 4th quartile | | | 0.009 | 0.000 | 0.033 | 0.004 |

Table continues

Table S6. Continued

| | At the beginning of the 1 st follow-up year (t ₁) | | At the beginning of the 2 nd follow-up year (t ₂) | | At the beginning of the 3 rd follow-up year (t ₃) | |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD |
| Labor market status | | | | | | |
| Employed labor force | | | 0.061 | 0.001 | 0.070 | 0.001 |
| Unemployed | | | 0.018 | 0.002 | 0.021 | 0.007 |
| Pensioner or unemployment pensioner | | | 0.081 | 0.002 | 0.098 | 0.008 |
| Others outside the labor force | | | 0.016 | 0.008 | 0.040 | 0.010 |
| Factors describing statin therapy | | | | | | |
| Increase in intensity of statin therapy | | | 0.045 | 0.009 | 0.025 | 0.109 |
| Cardiac comorbidity factors | | | | | | |
| Diabetes | | | 0.081 | 0.009 | 0.106 | 0.017 |
| Insulin | | | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.035 | 0.002 |
| Hypertensive diseases | | | 0.087 | 0.013 | 0.109 | 0.015 |
| Heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency | | | 0.019 | 0.007 | 0.004 | 0.006 |
| Cardiac arrhythmia | | | 0.009 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.009 |
| Dysfunctions of lipid metabolism | | | 0.009 | 0.002 | 0.008 | 0.002 |
| Number of concurrent CVD medications | | | | | | |
| 0 | | | 0.092 | 0.000 | 0.097 | 0.000 |
| 1 | | | 0.048 | 0.002 | 0.040 | 0.003 |
| 2 | | | 0.041 | 0.002 | 0.056 | 0.000 |
| ≥3 | | | 0.039 | 0.002 | 0.044 | 0.005 |
| Charlson Comorbidity Index ≥1 | | | 0.017 | 0.007 | 0.011 | 0.015 |
| Chronic CHD | | | 0.066 | 0.006 | 0.064 | 0.003 |
| Chronic CHD hospitalization | | | 0.040 | 0.021 | 0.034 | 0.008 |
| CABG/PTCA | | | 0.052 | 0.003 | 0.038 | 0.005 |
| Chronic cerebrovascular diseases and TIA | | | 0.007 | 0.002 | 0.025 | 0.004 |
| Atherosclerosis | | | 0.005 | 0.007 | 0.018 | 0.010 |
| Nitrates | | | 0.027 | 0.000 | 0.026 | 0.005 |
| Non-cardiac comorbidity factors | | | | | | |
| Rheumatoid arthritis | | | 0.006 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.007 |
| Cancer | | | 0.019 | 0.004 | 0.006 | 0.002 |
| Mental disorders | | | 0.058 | 0.017 | 0.052 | 0.017 |
| Depression | | | 0.007 | 0.005 | 0.017 | 0.010 |

Table continues

Table S6. Continued

| | At the beginning of the 1 st follow-up year (t ₁) | | At the beginning of the 2 nd follow-up year (t ₂) | | At the beginning of the 3 rd follow-up year (t ₃) | |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD | Un-weighted SD | Stab IPTW weighted SD |
| Respiratory diseases | | | 0.003 | 0.006 | 0.009 | 0.024 |
| Alcohol-related diseases | | | 0.035 | 0.007 | 0.050 | 0.015 |
| NSAID | | | 0.005 | 0.007 | 0.019 | 0.027 |
| Anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives | | | 0.007 | 0.008 | 0.006 | 0.014 |
| Corticosteroids for systemic use | | | 0.013 | 0.005 | 0.034 | 0.014 |
| Hormone therapy | | | 0.067 | 0.028 | 0.076 | 0.033 |
| Total number of concurrent medications | | | | | | |
| 0–4 | | | 0.103 | 0.031 | 0.177 | 0.086 |
| 5–9 | | | 0.056 | 0.019 | 0.115 | 0.056 |
| ≥10 | | | 0.073 | 0.019 | 0.095 | 0.047 |
| Number of in-hospital days | | | | | | |
| 0 | | | 0.035 | 0.025 | 0.028 | 0.033 |
| 1–2 | | | 0.008 | 0.003 | 0.004 | 0.008 |
| 3–7 | | | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.011 | 0.015 |
| ≥8 | | | 0.029 | 0.027 | 0.031 | 0.031 |

Abbreviations: CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; CHD, coronary heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular diseases; IPTW, inverse probability of treatment weight; NSAID, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications; PTCA, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty; SD, standardized difference; TIA, transient ischemic attack.

Appendix 1. Inverse probability weights and marginal structural model.

Stabilized inverse probability of treatment weights (IPTWs) were specified as follows at 12, 24 and 36 months after statin initiation:

$$IPTW_{12} = [P(A_{12}=a_{12})]/[P(A_{12}=a_{12}|\mathbf{B}=\mathbf{b})]$$

$$IPTW_{24} = [P(A_{24}=a_{24}|A_{12}=a_{12}) \times P(A_{12}=a_{12})] / [P(A_{24}=a_{24}|A_{12}=a_{12}, \mathbf{L}_{12}=\mathbf{l}_{12}, \mathbf{B}=\mathbf{b}) \times P(A_{12}=a_{12}|\mathbf{B}=\mathbf{b})]$$

$$IPTW_{36} = [P(A_{36}=a_{36}|A_{24}=a_{24}, A_{12}=a_{12}) \times P(A_{24}=a_{24}|A_{12}=a_{12}) \times P(A_{12}=a_{12})] / [P(A_{36}=a_{36}|A_{24}=a_{24}, A_{12}=a_{12}, \mathbf{L}_{24}=\mathbf{l}_{24}, \mathbf{L}_{12}=\mathbf{l}_{12}, \mathbf{B}=\mathbf{b}) \times P(A_{24}=a_{24}|A_{12}=a_{12}, \mathbf{L}_{12}=\mathbf{l}_{12}, \mathbf{B}=\mathbf{b}) \times P(A_{12}=a_{12}|\mathbf{B}=\mathbf{b})].$$

In the equations, capitalized letters denote random variables and lowercase letters observations (values) of random variables. Bolded letters denote vectors. A_{12} – A_{36} refer to adherence level (adherence or non-adherence) at 12, 24 and 36 months after statin initiation. \mathbf{B} is a vector of baseline characteristics measured prior to or at statin initiation, and \mathbf{L}_{12} – \mathbf{L}_{24} vectors of time-dependent confounders measured at 12 and 24 months after statin initiation. Time-specific probabilities were estimated using logistic regression models with the observed adherences over the previous 12 months as dependent variables.

Marginal structural model was specified using pooled log-binomial regression model with person-month level observations weighted by stabilized IPTWs as follows:

$$\log [P(Y_t = 1 | Y_{t-1} = 0, A_{t-1} = a_{t-1})] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * a_{t-1}, t=13,14,\dots,48.$$

In the above, Y_t refers to outcome measured between months t_{13} and t_{48} and β_0 represents intercept. Here, A_{t-1} refers to the adherence level measured at the preceding adherence assessment period prior to the month t . Exponential function of coefficient β_1 , $\exp(\beta_1)$, can be interpreted as an average (pooled over the follow-up months) causal effect of adherence on the hazard of an acute cardiovascular event when everybody remains adherent during the previous adherence ascertainment year compared with remaining non-adherent. We used SAS PROC GENMOD (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) to derive the MSMs and obtained robust standard errors for coefficients.

Following SAS syntax was used to construct the primary analysis:

```
/*  
Inverse probability of treatment weights at 12 months after statin initiation  
*/  
*Numerator calculation;  
proc logistic data=data;  
where year=2;  
model dipdc12(event='1')= ;  
output out=mo2a p=pa_0;  
run;  
  
*Denominator calculation. Predictors include baseline confounders. ;  
proc logistic data=data;  
where year=2;  
class age_cat hosparea marital incomeqrt educ labor statin startyr  
intensity diabetesbl insulinbl hypertenbl hefaibl dyslipbl cararrbl  
nofCVDmedbl charlsonbl rheumabl cancerbl mentaldisbl depressionbl  
asthmabl alcodisbl NSAIDbl AnxHypnSedbl corticostbl hormonebl  
nofmedcatbl inhospdays_catbl /param=ref ref=first;  
model dipdc12(event='1')= age_cat hosparea marital incomeqrt educ labor  
statin startyear intensity diabetesbl insulinbl hypertenbl hefaibl  
dyslipbl cararrbl nofCVDmedbl charlsonbl rheumabl cancerbl mentaldisbl  
depressionbl asthmabl alcodisbl NSAIDbl AnxHypnSedbl corticostbl  
hormonebl nofmedcatbl inhospdays_catbl /link=logit;  
output out=mo2b p=pa_N;  
run;
```

```

data we2; merge mo2a mo2b; by id;
if dipdc12=1 then sw= pa_0 / pa_N;
else if dipdc12=0 then sw= (1-pa_0) / (1-pa_N);
run;

/*
Inverse probability of treatment weights at 24 months after statin initiation.
*/
*Numerator calculation;
proc logistic data=data;
where year =3;
class dipdc12 /param=ref ref=first;
model dipdc24(event='1')= dipdc12 /link=logit;
output out=mo3a p=pa_0;
run;

/*Denominator calculation. Predictors include baseline confounders and potential
time-dependent confounders measured at 12 months since statin initiation.*/
proc logistic data=data;
where year= 3;
class dipdc12 marstall12 incomeqrt12 labor12 incrintensity12 diabetes12
insulin12 hyperten12 hefail12 cararr12 dyslip12 nofCVDmed12 charlson12
chronCHD12 chronCHDhosp12 proced12 cerebro12 athero12 nitrates12
rheuma12 cancer12 mentaldis12 depression12 asthma12 alcodis12 NSAID12
AnxHypnSed12 corticost12 hormone12 nofmedcat12 inhospdays_cat12 age_cat
hosparea marital incomeqrt educ labor statin startyear intensity
diabetesbl insulinbl hypertenbl hefaibl dyslipbl cararrbl nofCVDmedbl
charlsonbl rheumabl cancerbl mentaldisbl depressionbl asthmalbl
alcodisbl NSAIDbl AnxHypnSedbl corticostbl hormonebl nofmedcatbl
inhospdays_catbl /param=ref ref=first;
model dipdc24(event='1')= dipdc12 marital12 incomeqrt12 labor12
incrintensity12 diabetes12 insulin12 hyperten12 hefail12 cararr12
dyslip12 nofCVDmed12 charlson12 chronCHD12 chronCHDhosp12 proced12
cerebro12 athero12 nitrates12 rheuma12 cancer12 mentaldis12
depression12 asthma12 alcodis12 NSAID12 AnxHypnSed12 corticost12
hormone12 nofmedcat12 inhospdays_cat12 age_cat hosparea marital
incomeqrt educ labor statin startyear intensity diabetesbl insulinbl
hypertenbl hefaibl dyslipbl cararrbl nofCVDmedbl charlsonbl rheumabl
cancerbl mentaldisbl depressionbl asthmalbl alcodisbl NSAIDbl
AnxHypnSedbl corticostbl hormonebl nofmedcatbl inhospdays_catbl
/link=logit;
output out=mo3b p=pa_N;
run;

data we3; merge mo3a mo3b; by id year;
if dipdc2=1 then sw= pa_0 / pa_N;
else if dipdc2=0 then sw= (1-pa_0) / (1-pa_N);
run;

/*
Inverse probability of treatment weights at 36 months after statin initiation.
*/
*Numerator calculation;
proc logistic data=data;
where year=4;
class dipdc12 dipdc24 /param=ref ref=first;
model dipdc36(event='1')= dipdc12 dipdc24 /link=logit;
output out=mo4a p=pa_0;
run;

```

```

/* Denominator calculation. Predictors include baseline confounders and potential
time-dependent confounders measured at 24 and 12 months since statin initiation.
*/
proc logistic data=data;
where year= 4;
class dipdc24 dipdc12 marital24 income_cat24 labor24 incrintensity24
diabetes24 insulin24 hyperten24 hefai24 cararr24 dyslip24 nofCVDmed24
charlson24 chronCHD24 chronCHDhosp24 proced24 cerebro24 athero24
nitrates24 rheuma24 cancer24 mentaldis24 depression24 asthma24
alcodis24 NSAID24 AnxHypnSed24 corticost24 hormone24 nofmedcat24
inhospdays_cat24 marital12 incomeqrt12 labor12 incrintensity12
diabetes12 insulin12 hyperten12 hefai12 cararr12 dyslip12 nofCVDmed12
charlson12 chronCHD12 chronCHDhosp12 proced12 cerebro12 athero12
nitrates12 rheuma12 cancer12 mentaldis12 depression12 asthma12
alcodis12 NSAID12 AnxHypnSed12 corticost12 hormone12 nofmedcat12
inhospdays_cat12 age_cat hosparea marital incomeqrt educ labor statin
startyear intensity diabetesbl insulinbl hypertenbl hefai12 dyslipbl
cararrbl nofCVDmedbl charlsonbl rheumabl cancerbl mentaldisbl
depressionbl asthmalbl alcodisbl NSAIDbl AnxHypnSedbl corticostbl
hormonebl nofmedcatbl inhospdays_catbl /param=ref ref=first;
model dipdc36(event='1')= dipdc24 dipdc12 marital24 incomeqrt24 labor24
incrintensity24 diabetes24 insulin24 hyperten24 hefai24 cararr24
dyslip24 nofCVDmed24 charlson24 chronCHD24 chronCHDhosp24 proced24
cerebro24 athero24 nitrates24 rheuma24 cancer24 mentaldis24
depression24 asthma24 alcodis24 NSAID24 AnxHypnSed24 corticost24
hormone24 nofmedcat24 inhospdays_cat24 marital12 incomeqrt12 labor12
incrintensity12 diabetes12 insulin12 hyperten12 hefai12 cararr12
dyslip12 nofCVDmed12 charlson12 chronCHD12 chronCHDhosp12 proced12
cerebro12 athero12 nitrates12 rheuma12 cancer12 mentaldis12
depression12 asthma12 alcodis12 NSAID12 AnxHypnSed12 corticost12
hormonether12 nofmedcat12 inhospdays_cat12 age_cat hosparea marital
incomeqrt educ labor statin startyear intensity diabetesbl insulinbl
hypertenbl hefai12 dyslipbl cararrbl nofCVDmedbl charlsonbl rheumabl
cancerbl mentaldisbl depressionbl asthmalbl alcodisbl NSAIDbl
AnxHypnSedbl corticostbl hormonebl nofmedcatbl inhospdays_catbl
/link=logit;
output out=mo4b p=pa_N;
run;

data we4; merge mo4a mo4b; by id year;
if dipdc3=1 then sw= pa_0 / pa_N;
else if dipdc3=0 then sw= (1-pa_0) / (1-pa_N);
run;

data weights (keep=id sw year dipdc_tv1 pa_N pa_0); set we2 we3 we4; run;

proc sort data=weights; by id year; run;

/*Stabilized inverse probability of treatment weights at 24 and 36 months after
statin initiation are calculated cumulatively by multiplying the stabilized
inverse probabilities from previous time points up to the specific time point. */
DATA weights2; set weights; by id;
if first.id then stabwt=sw;
else stabwt=sw*dum;

retain dum;
drop dum;
dum=stabwt;
run;

data main; merge data weights2; by id year; run;

```

```

*Marginal structural model. Below, dipdc_tv1 denotes lagged time-dependent
variable of statin adherence;
proc genmod data=main desc;
class id dipdc_tv1(ref='0') /param=ref;
model event=dipdc_tv1 /link=log dist=bin;
scwgt stabwt;
repeated subject=id /type=ind;
run; quit;

```

Appendix 2. Sensitivity analyses.

Statin adherence and acute cardiovascular events

To examine the magnitude of potential bias introduced to effect estimate when using time-dependent confounders assessed simultaneously with adherence, we replaced time-dependent confounders in adherence models with those measured concurrently with adherence, i.e. intermediate variables, and examined its effect on the effect estimate (model 1) (see Figure S1). We observed a slightly larger reduction in the hazard of acute cardiovascular events (hazard ratio: 0.74, 95% confidence interval: 0.61, 0.89) when compared with our primary analyses for adherers versus non-adherers (model 1, Table S7).

In an alternative MSM we added medical procedures (coronary artery bypass graft, CABG/percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty PTCA) and deaths from any cause to the composite outcome (model 2) as these events can be viewed as competing risks that alter the probability of having the primary outcome and, thus, censoring because of them can cause selection bias. For this, we excluded patients with medical procedures during the first year (n=48). During the follow-up, 464 patients had an acute cardiovascular event, 345 died from any cause, and 88 had CABG/PTCA. Further, 171 patients were censored because of long-term institutionalization and the rest were followed up to the end of the study. Being adherent (proportion of days covered, PDC, $\geq 80\%$) resulted in 21% reduction in the hazard of composite outcome (hazard ratio: 0.79, 95% confidence interval: 0.69, 0.90) compared with being non-adherent (PDC $< 80\%$) (model 2, Table S7). The estimate is close to the one of our primary analysis (hazard ratio: 0.77, 95% confidence interval: 0.64, 0.93) indicating minor effect of selection bias due to competing risks towards our main results.

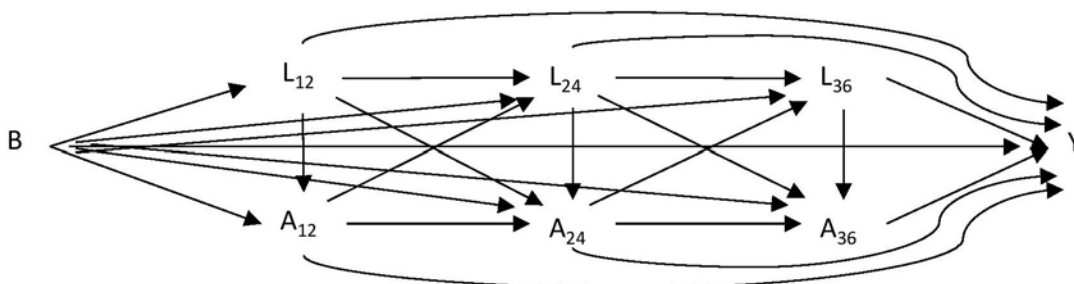


Figure S1. Directed acyclic graph for time-dependent adherence and confounding structures. B, baseline characteristics; A_{12} – A_{36} , time-dependent adherences; L_{12} – L_{36} , time-dependent confounders measured at times 12, 24 and 36; Y outcome.

Table S7. Effect of statin adherence on acute cardiovascular events.

| Model | Exposure definition | Outcome definition | Variables in adherence model | HR | 95% CI |
|-------|---------------------------|---|---|------|------------|
| 1 | Adherent vs. non-adherent | Acute cardiovascular events | Baseline ^a , lagged ^b and current ^c time-dependent confounders | 0.74 | 0.61, 0.89 |
| 2 | Adherent vs. non-adherent | Composite of acute cardiovascular events, deaths from any cause and CABG/PTCA | Baseline ^a and lagged ^b time-dependent confounders | 0.79 | 0.69, 0.90 |

Abbreviations: CABG, coronary artery bypass graft ; CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; PTCA, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.

^a **Baseline confounders** as presented in Table S5.

^b **Lagged time-dependent confounders:** Marital status, income, labor market status, increase in intensity of statin therapy, diabetes, use of insulin, hypertensive diseases, heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency, cardiac arrhythmia, dysfunctions of lipid metabolism, number of concurrent cardiovascular medications, Charlson Comorbidity Index, chronic CHD, chronic CHD hospitalization, medical procedure related to CHD, chronic cerebrovascular diseases and transient ischemic attack, atherosclerosis, use of nitrates, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, mental disorders, depression, respiratory diseases, alcohol-related diseases, use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives, corticosteroids for systemic use, and hormone therapy, total number of concurrent medications, number of in-hospital days.

^c **Current time-dependent confounders:** Marital status, income, labor market status, increase in intensity of statin therapy, diabetes, use of insulin, hypertensive diseases, heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency, cardiac arrhythmia, dysfunctions of lipid metabolism, number of concurrent cardiovascular medications, Charlson Comorbidity Index, chronic CHD, chronic CHD hospitalization, medical procedure related to CHD, chronic cerebrovascular diseases and transient ischemic attack, atherosclerosis, use of nitrates, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, mental disorders, depression, respiratory diseases, alcohol-related diseases, use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives, corticosteroids for systemic use, and hormone therapy, total number of concurrent medications, number of in-hospital days.

Statin refills and acute cardiovascular events

In addition, we compared at least slightly adherent women to extremely non-adherent women in order to mimic exposure in randomized controlled trials by assuming that patients with only the initial dispensation during the follow-up could reflect those with a similar indication but without statin exposure. More specifically, time-dependent exposure was measured as a number of statin refills after statin initiation within time periods (0–12], (0–24] and (0–36] months and categorized as no refills and at least one refill during the time period (Figure S2). After a refill patient was considered to continue in the group with at least one refill. The association of additional statin refill with acute cardiovascular events was investigated with i) discrete-time hazards model with time-varying adherence and baseline confounders (model 3) and ii) MSM (model 4). Estimation results from conventional model indicated potential effect of adherence (hazard ratio: 0.81, 95% confidence interval: 0.60, 1.11) on the hazard of an acute cardiovascular event when compared with extreme non-adherence (model 3, Table S8). Weighting the model 3 with IPTWs resulted in hazard ratio of 0.85 (95% confidence interval: 0.62, 1.16) (model 4, Table S8).

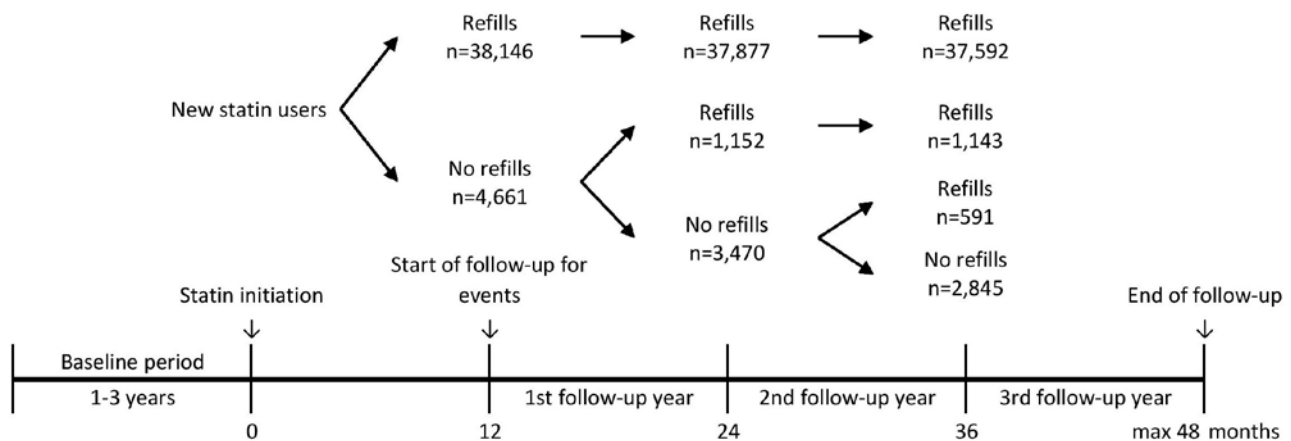


Figure S2. Flow of patients according to statin refills.

Table S8. Effect of statin refill on acute cardiovascular events.

| Model | Type of model | Exposure definition | Variables in adherence model | Variables in outcome model | HR | 95% CI |
|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|------|------------|
| 3 | Discrete-time hazards model | At least slightly adherents vs. extreme non-adherents | Not applicable | Time-dependent adherence and baseline confounders ^a | 0.81 | 0.60, 1.11 |
| 4 | MSM | At least slightly adherents vs. extreme non-adherents | Baseline ^a and lagged time-dependent ^b confounders | Adherence during the previous assessment year | 0.85 | 0.62, 1.16 |

Abbreviations: CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; MSM, marginal structural model.

^a **Baseline confounders** as presented in Table S5.

^b **Lagged time-dependent confounders:** Marital status, income, labor market status, diabetes, use of insulin, hypertensive diseases, heart failure or chronic cardiac insufficiency, cardiac arrhythmia, dysfunctions of lipid metabolism, number of concurrent cardiovascular medications, Charlson Comorbidity Index, chronic CHD, chronic CHD hospitalization, medical procedure related to CHD, chronic cerebrovascular diseases and transient ischemic attack, atherosclerosis, use of nitrates, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, mental disorders, depression, respiratory diseases, alcohol-related diseases, use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives, corticosteroids for systemic use, or hormone therapy, total number of concurrent medications, number of in-hospital days.