



SHOULD I TAKE STATINS?

A decision making tool

Average Risk (<15%)

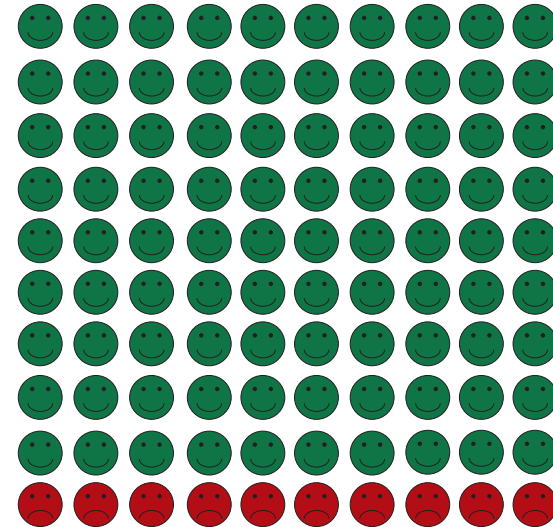
1 What is my risk of having a heart attack in the next 10 years?

NO STATIN

90 people **DO NOT** have a heart attack (green)

10 people **DO** have a heart attack (red)

The risk for 100 people like you who **DO NOT** take statins.



YES STATIN

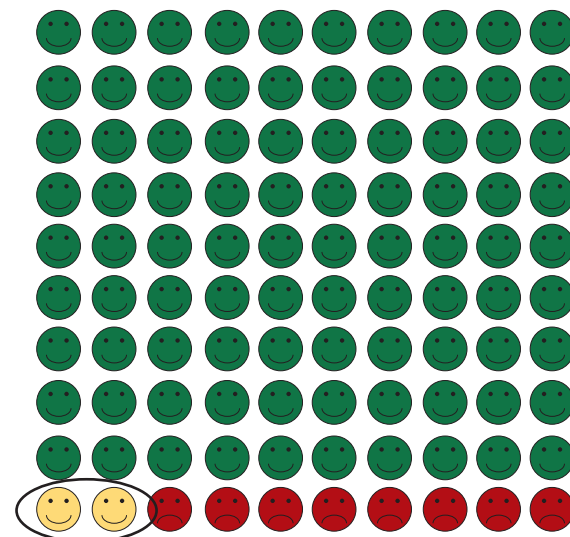
90 people still **DO NOT** have a heart attack (green)




2 people **AVOIDED** a heart attack (yellow)

8 people still **DO** have a heart attack (red)

98 people experienced **NO BENEFIT** from taking statins

The risk for 100 people like you who **DO** take statins.



-  had a heart attack
-  avoided a heart attack
-  didn't have a heart attack

2 What are the downsides of taking statins (cholesterol pill)?

- Statins need to be **taken every day** for a long time (maybe forever).
- Statins cost money. (to you or your drug plan)
- **Common side effects:** nausea, diarrhea, constipation (most patients can tolerate)
- **Muscle aching/stiffness:** 5 in 100 patients (some need to stop statins because of this)
- **Liver blood test goes up** (no pain, no permanent liver damage): 2 in 100 patients (some need to stop statins because of this)
- **Muscle and kidney damage:** 1 in 20,000 patients (requires patients to stop statins)

3 What do you want to do now?

- Take (or continue to take) statins
- Not take (or stop taking) statins
- Prefer to decide at some other time