

## About your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed the following medicine for you:

- Chloroquine
- Hydroxychloroquine:

## What is this medicine used for?

This medicine is used to prevent and treat malaria.

This medicine may be used to treat skin lesions of certain immune diseases (e.g., systemic lupus erythematosus and discoid lupus erythematosus) that are unresponsive to other therapy. It is also used for other conditions, including the management of skin conditions, as determined by your doctor.

## How should I take this medicine?

Take this medicine with food to prevent stomach upset.

If you feel that the medicine is not working well, do not take more than the prescribed dose. Consult your doctor.

## What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you are directed by your doctor to take this medicine regularly, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose.

Do not double the next dose to make up for the missed dose.

## What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor.

- Diarrhoea
- Visual changes/disturbance
- Headache
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Stomach pain

Rare unwanted effects have been reported in association with the medicine. Check with your doctor if any of the following side effects occur:

- Bleaching of hair
- Blue-black discoloration of skin, fingernails, or inside of mouth
- Convulsion (seizures)
- Increased hair loss
- Increased muscle weakness
- Mental/mood changes (e.g., confusion, personality changes, unusual thoughts/behavior, depression)
- Ringing in the ears or any loss of hearing
- Signs of serious infection (e.g., high fever, severe chills, persistent sore throat)
- Sun sensitivity
- Unusual tiredness or weakness

## What precautions should I take?

- Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of:
  - alcohol dependency
  - blood disorders
  - eye or vision problems
  - glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency
  - kidney disease
  - liver disease
  - nerve or brain disease, including seizures
  - psoriasis, alcoholism

- *For women: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.* This medicine should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Since small amounts of the medicine are found in breast milk, consult your doctor before breast-feeding.
- This medicine may infrequently cause serious (sometimes permanent) eye problems or muscle damage, especially if you take it for a long time. Seek immediate medical attention if any of these unlikely but very serious side effects occur: sensitivity to light or vision changes (e.g., blurred vision, seeing light flashes/streaks/halos, missing/blacked-out areas of vision). If you are taking the medicine for a long period of time, your doctor may recommend frequent eye exams.
- This drug may make you dizzy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Avoid alcoholic beverages because they may increase your risk of liver problems while you are taking this drug.
- Inform your doctor if you are taking any other medications, in particular, amiodarone, ciclosporin, cimetidine, digoxin, magnesium trisilicate (antacids), and mefloquine
- Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.

## How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine away from heat and direct sunlight in a cool, dry place.
- Children are especially sensitive to the effects of this medicine. Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Do not keep this medicine with other medications in the same container. Keep each medicine separately in labeled containers.

**PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

**CHLOROQUINE,  
HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE**

*When in doubt, consult your doctor or pharmacist.*  
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