

(a-TOE-va-kwone/pro-GWA-nil)

### What is this medication used for

Atovaquone/proguanil is used to prevent malaria. This medication works by killing the malaria parasites in the body.

### How to take this medication

Adults 18 years old and above, with body weight of at least 40kg

One 250mg atovaquone/100mg proguanil tablet to be taken at the same time each day.

Start the course of medication 1 to 2 days before going to an area where malaria is common, and continue daily throughout the trip, and for 7 days after leaving the area.

This medication should be taken with food or a milky drink to increase absorption of the medication.

If you vomit within 1 hour after taking this medication, take another dose straight away. If the vomiting continues, please inform your doctor. Use extra protection such as repellents and bed nets as the amount taken into your body will be less and the medication may not be as effective.

### Before you use this medication

The risk of malaria and resistance to malaria medications might be different between countries, and even within a country. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to find out if you need any medication to prevent malaria. Include important information such as the province, state or district of the country to determine the most appropriate medication suitable for your destination.

Medications to prevent malaria do not offer complete protection and you should still prevent yourself from getting bitten by mosquitoes.

Do not take atovaquone/proguanil if you:

- are allergic to atovaquone and/or proguanil hydrochloride
- have kidney disease
- have liver disease

Do not take atovaquone/proguanil unless it has been prescribed for you by a doctor or other qualified prescriber if you:

- are breastfeeding, pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- are under 18 years old or weigh less than 40 kg
- have ever had **epilepsy**, convulsions or fits
- suffer from **depression**
- have **tuberculosis**

### Interactions with other medications

Atovaquone/proguanil may interact with other medications, nutritional supplements, or herbal products that you may be taking. These interactions can change the way the medicine works. It may decrease or increase the effects of the medicines and lead to other harmful effects.

Do not take atovaquone/proguanil if you are already taking any of the following medicines:

- **etoposide** (used to treat cancer)
- **metoclopramide** (used to treat nausea and vomiting)
- antibiotics **tetracycline**, **rifampicin** or **rifabutin**
- **efavirenz**, **zidovudine**, **indinavir** or medicines called protease inhibitors, used to treat human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- **warfarin**, other coumarin based anticoagulants, or new oral anticoagulants such as **dabigatran etexilate**, **rivaroxaban** and **apixaban**

Be sure to inform your doctor and/or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or plan to take other medications, nutritional supplements or herbal products or if you have any other concerns.

### Side effects

Common side effects: rash, insomnia, headache, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea

Rare side effects: anaemia, liver problems, seizures, seeing or hearing things that are not there, hair loss, anxiety

## Further precautionary measures to prevent malaria

Other than taking this medicine, general protection is important to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

The following are some examples of what you can do:

- Use insect repellents which contain more than 30% DEET (diethyltoluamide) on exposed skin
- Wear light coloured, long sleeved shirts and long trousers to cover most parts of your body, especially at dusk and dawn as these are the times when mosquitoes are most active
- Staying indoors and closing the windows and doors at dusk and dawn
- Using mosquito bed nets, air conditioning, screens on windows and doors
- Consider using an insecticides to prevent mosquitoes from entering the room

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

## When to seek further medical advice

### Inform your doctor and/or pharmacist immediately if you experience any:

- allergic symptoms (e.g. rashes, itchiness, difficulty in breathing or eye swelling)
- serious side effects (e.g. persistent/severe nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, unexplained tiredness, dark urine, yellowing eyes/skin, worsening tiredness, rapid breathing, pale skin/lips/nails, fast heartbeat while resting, high fever, severe chills, body aches, sore throat) due to this medication.

It is still possible to get malaria after taking the necessary precautions. Some types of malaria infection take a long time to cause symptoms, so the illness may not start until several days, weeks or even months after returning from abroad.

See a doctor immediately and tell your doctor that you have visited a malaria-endemic area if you get these symptoms, particularly within three months or even up to one year after returning home:

- a high temperature (fever)
- headache
- tiredness
- sweats and chills
- vomiting

## How should this medication be kept

Keep your medication in the original container or packaging, tightly closed or sealed.

Store in a cool and dry place below 30°C, away from direct sunlight.

Keep your medication out of reach and sight of children.



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