

Does Hydroxychloroquine affect fertility or pregnancy?

Hydroxychloroquine can be continued during pregnancy and breastfeeding. However, the nature of your disease may affect pregnancy. You are advised to consult your doctor if you are planning to conceive.

Can I have immunisations while on Hydroxychloroquine?

Yes, you can have immunisations while on Hydroxychloroquine.

Are there any alternatives to Hydroxychloroquine?

A number of drugs can be used to treat the various conditions treated by Hydroxychloroquine. Your doctor will advise you on the safest and most effective option. If you have any concerns, do raise them with your doctor.

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Medication Information for Patients

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE



Why am I being prescribed Hydroxychloroquine ?

Hydroxychloroquine is used to treat connective tissue diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus (also commonly known as lupus), rheumatoid arthritis and dermatomyositis. It is also used to treat skin conditions such as discoid lupus erythematosus and photodermatoses.

When do I take Hydroxychloroquine?

The tablets can be taken once or twice daily depending on your condition, with or after meals.

What dose do I take?

Most conditions respond to doses between 200 – 400 mg daily. The dose may be reduced later when your condition is better controlled.

When does Hydroxychloroquine work?

The effects of Hydroxychloroquine will not be visible immediately. It may take three to four months before you notice any benefit, provided you take your medication as prescribed.

How should I store Hydroxychloroquine?

The tablets should be stored at room temperature. Keep out of reach from children.

What are the possible risks associated with Hydroxychloroquine?

Side effects	Warning signs	Things you need to do
Visual abnormalities	Changes in vision including decreased field of vision, halos around lights, problems focusing, abnormal colour vision, night blindness. <i>This list is not exhaustive.</i>	Inform your doctor if you experience any visual abnormalities. You will need an eye examination. Depending on the results, the doctor may stop the medication. Check your eyes yearly.
Pigmentation		Inform your doctor. Apply sunscreen daily.
Hair loss or bleaching of hair roots		Inform your doctor.
Rashes		Inform your doctor and stop the medication.
Very rare side effects	Warning signs	Things you need to do
Liver inflammation		Your doctor may stop or reduce the dose.
Nausea & indigestion, diarrhoea		Inform your doctor, who may stop or reduce the dose.
Dizziness, ringing in the ears		
Muscle weakness and abnormal nerve conduction	Difficulty lifting up arms/ climbing stairs/ standing from squatting position, numbness.	Your doctor may stop or reduce the dose.

Low blood counts	Paleness, easy bruising, tiredness.	Inform your doctor if you observe these symptoms.
May worsen psoriasis		Inform your doctor if you have psoriasis.

Please seek medical attention if you experience any of the above symptoms.

Do I have to do any blood / special test while taking Hydroxychloroquine?

It is recommended that you undergo a baseline eye examination and yearly eye screening.

Should I avoid any medication while on Hydroxychloroquine?

Show your doctor and pharmacist all other medications you are taking or plan to take, including supplements and over-the-counter medications.

May I drink alcohol while taking Hydroxychloroquine?

There is no particular reason to avoid alcohol unless you are pregnant.

What if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. **Do not double the next dose to make up for the missed dose.**