

## **ABOUT** your medicine

Anti-malarial drugs are used to prevent or treat a form of serious parasitic infection called malaria. It is transmitted to humans by anopheles mosquito in endemic areas.

Examples of anti-malarials include Chloroquine with Proguanil, Mefloquine, Primaquine, Pyrimethamine and Quinine Sulphate.

## **PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

### **ANTI-MALARIAL MEDICATIONS**

#### **HOW** should I take the medicine?

Take the tablets with a full glass of water and with food.

For patients taking medicines to prevent malaria:

- You should start 1 week (2-3 weeks for Mefloquine) before travel to endemic area (or if not possible at earliest opportunity 1-2 days before travel). It should be continued for your entire length of stay and for at least 4 weeks after leaving the area.

For patients taking the medicines to treat malaria:

- Complete the course that has been prescribed for you even if you begin to feel better. Incomplete treatment can lead to recurrence of the infection or cause the development of resistance to treatment.

#### What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take only your next scheduled dose. Do not double your dose to make up for a missed dose.

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Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

You can reduce the following symptoms by taking the drug after a full meal. Consult your doctor if they are severe and do not go away.

- Nausea, vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Diarrhoea

Stop taking medication and seek emergency medical attention if you experience any of the following:

- Rashes
- Swollen eyes
- Difficulty in breathing

#### Pyrimethamine, Primaquine

These symptoms may occur. Consult your doctor if they are severe and do not go away.

- Sore throat
- Unexplained bruising or bleeding

#### Chloroquine, Quinine

If the following symptoms occur, stop the medicine and seek doctor's advice.

- Ringing in the ear
- Blurring of vision

If the following symptom occurs, stop the medicine and seek emergency medical attention.

- Fast or irregular heartbeat

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#### Mefloquine

If the following symptom occurs, stop the medicine and seek doctor's advice.

- Hallucination
- Sleep disorder

Side-effects other than those listed may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side-effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Before taking your medicine, inform your doctor if:

- you are allergic to anti-malarials or other medicines.
- you are pregnant or breast-feeding.
- you have G6PD deficiency.
- you have a history of neuropsychiatric, kidney, liver and heart disease.
- you are taking other medications or other herbal products.

When taking this medicine for prophylaxis, you can protect yourself further by:

- applying insect repellent containing DEET to uncovered areas of skin.
- wearing long sleeved shirts and long trousers.
- sleeping in air-conditioned room or under mosquito nets.
- using mosquito coils in sleeping quarters.

Even if all recommendations are taken to protect against malaria, there is still a chance that the illness may occur. If you experience any symptoms particularly within 3 months of your return, see a doctor immediately. Do not attempt to self-treat.

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How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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