



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Chloroquine

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: Canada

TEVA-Chloroquine

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat or prevent malaria.
- It is used to treat a type of bowel infection.
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If your child is allergic to any drugs like this one or any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If your child has ever had any eye changes or changes in eyesight.
- If your child has porphyria.
- If your child has psoriasis, talk with the doctor.
- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Cimetidine or tamoxifen.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby or plans to breast-

feed a baby.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for your child to take this drug with all of his/her drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

For all uses of this drug:

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- A severe eye problem has happened with this drug. This may lead to lasting eyesight problems. The risk may be higher if your child has some types of eye or kidney problems. The risk may also be higher with some doses of this drug, if your child uses this drug for longer than 5 years, or if your child takes certain other drugs like tamoxifen. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has eyesight changes like blurred or foggy eyesight, trouble focusing or reading, or trouble seeing in dim light. Call your child's doctor right away if your child loses part of his/her eyesight, sees dark spots, or sees only part of an object.
- Get your child an eye exam as you have been told by the doctor.
- Be careful if your child has G6PD deficiency. Anemia may happen.
- Have your child's blood work checked if he/she is on this drug for a long time. Talk with your child's doctor.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Some other drugs may need to be given at some other time than this drug. If your child takes other drugs, check with the doctor or pharmacist to see if you need to give them to your child at some other time than this drug.
- If your child is taking cyclosporine, talk with the doctor. Your child may need

to have blood work checked more closely while taking it with this drug.

- This drug may make your child sunburn more easily. Use care if your child will be in the sun. Tell your child's doctor if your child sunburns easily while taking this drug.
- Low blood sugar has happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been very bad and could be life-threatening. Talk with the doctor.
- Have your child's blood sugar checked as you have been told by your child's doctor.
- A very bad and sometimes deadly reaction has happened with this drug. Most of the time, this reaction has signs like fever, rash, or swollen glands with problems in body organs like the liver, kidney, blood, heart, muscles and joints, or lungs. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may add to the chance of getting some types of cancer. Talk with the doctor.
- Keep away from children. Accidental exposure may cause death. If a child takes this drug by accident, get medical help right away.

If your child is pregnant:

- Tell the doctor if your child is pregnant or becomes pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of your child using this drug while pregnant.

Preventing malaria:

- Other measures are needed along with this drug including using screens, bed netting, insect repellent (10% to 35% DEET), and permethrin spray on clothing and nets. Avoid spraying most insect repellents on children. Lower evening and night-time outdoor activity.
- If your child is pregnant and is traveling to a malaria-infested place, talk to the doctor about the risks first.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child's doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very

bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

For all uses of this drug:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of low blood sugar like dizziness, headache, feeling sleepy, feeling weak, shaking, a fast heartbeat, confusion, hunger, or sweating.
- Trouble controlling body movements.
- Restlessness.
- Seizures.
- Mood changes.
- Change in how you act.
- Not able to sleep.
- Feeling confused.
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).
- Change in hearing.
- Ringing in ears.
- Muscle pain or weakness.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Fever or chills.
- Sore throat.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Feeling very tired or weak.

- A very bad skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis) may happen. It can cause very bad health problems that may not go away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if your child has signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in the mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.
- Heart problems like heart failure and abnormal heartbeats have happened in people taking high doses of this drug for a long time. Sometimes, these have been deadly. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has a fast or abnormal heartbeat; very bad dizziness or passing out; or shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.

Preventing malaria:

- Fever that happens while in or after coming back from the malaria area.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Belly pain.
- Stomach cramps.
- Not hungry.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Headache.
- Diarrhea.
- Change in color of skin.
- Change in color of hair.
- Hair loss.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Give this drug with or without food. Give with food if it causes an upset stomach.
- Be sure you know how to give this drug. Talk with your child's doctor if you have questions.
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss giving your child doses.
- Keep giving this drug to your child as you have been told by your child's doctor or other health care provider, even if your child feels well.
- Do not give antacids or kaolin within 4 hours of this drug.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child's next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.

- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- Keep a list of all your child's drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child's doctor.
- Talk with your child's doctor before giving your child any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child's doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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