



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Tafenoquine

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: US

Arakoda; Krintafel

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to prevent malaria.
- It is used to prevent malaria from coming back.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you have an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If you have glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency or you have not been tested for it.

- If you have ever had any mental health or behavior problems.
- If you are taking any of these drugs: Dofetilide or metformin.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.
- If you are breast-feeding and your child has G6PD deficiency or your child has not been tested for it. Do not breast-feed for 3 months after taking this drug if your child has G6PD deficiency or has not been tested for it.

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

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

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

For all uses of this drug:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.

- People with an enzyme deficiency called G6PD deficiency may have more chance of getting hemolysis. Do not take this drug if you have G6PD deficiency. You may need to be screened for G6PD deficiency before taking this drug. Talk with your doctor.
- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant.
- If you are able to get pregnant, a pregnancy test will be done to show that you are NOT pregnant before starting this drug. Talk with your doctor.
- Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy for 3 months after taking this drug.
- If you get pregnant within 3 months after getting this drug, call your doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

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 you have a fever after leaving a malaria area, call your doctor right away.

What are some side effects that I need to call my 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 doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- 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 hemolytic anemia like dark lips or urine, dizziness or passing out, feeling confused, feeling very tired or weak, pale skin, shortness of breath, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of methemoglobinemia like a blue or gray color of the lips, nails, or skin; a heartbeat that does not feel normal; seizures; very bad dizziness or passing out; very bad headache; feeling very sleepy; feeling tired or weak; or shortness of breath. This effect is rare but may be deadly if it happens.
- Mental, mood, or behavior changes that are new or worse.
- Anxiety.
- Strange or odd dreams.
- Trouble sleeping.

- Low mood (depression).
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).
- Feeling confused.
- Very bad dizziness or passing out.

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 doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

For all uses of this drug:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Headache.

Preventing malaria:

- Dizziness.
- Back pain.
- Diarrhea.
- Motion sickness.

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

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

For all uses of this drug:

- Take this drug with food.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.

Preventing malaria from coming back:

- If you throw up within 1 hour of taking this drug, call your doctor to find out what to do.

Preventing malaria:

- Use as you have been told to prevent malaria.
- If using to prevent malaria, start this drug before traveling to the high risk place.
- It is important that you do not miss or skip a dose of this drug during treatment.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

Preventing malaria from coming back:

- Most of the time, 1 dose of this drug is needed. If you miss the dose, take it as soon as you think about it with food. If you need to take more than 1 dose of this drug, follow what your doctor has told you to do.

Preventing malaria:

- If a dose is missed, check the package insert or call the doctor or pharmacist to find out what to do.

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 symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.
- Talk with the doctor before starting 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 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.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

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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