

Medication Information

Hydroxychloroquine (Hye – drox – see – klor – oh – kwin)

Other names for this medication

Plaquenil®

There are many other names for this medication.

How this medication is used

This medication is used to treat arthritis symptoms such as swelling, stiffness and joint pain. It slows down the disease and protects the joints from further damage.

This medication may take up to 6 months to begin to work fully.

This medication is used to:

- prevent or treat malaria
- treat lupus

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your health care provider. This medication is usually taken once a day. Take this medication at the same time each day.

To avoid stomach upset, take this medication with a meal or snack.

How to take this medication (continued)

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

This medication may affect your eyes. It is important to get an eye exam before starting to take this medication. You will need to have regular eye check-ups.

While taking this medication you may notice

- diarrhea
- headache
- nausea
- stomach cramps
- dizziness or light-headedness
- nervousness
- trouble sleeping

These effects will go away as your body gets used to the medication.

To avoid feeling dizzy, get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.

Until you know how this medication affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.

Contact your health care provider if you notice

- blurred vision or any other changes with your eyes
- signs of bleeding such as nosebleeds, easy bruising, black or bloody stools, red urine
- signs of infection such as fever, chills, or sore throat
- skin rash