



# HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE Generic Name



Brand Names: Plaquenil

## 🔍 WHAT IS IT?

Hydroxychloroquine is a DMARD (Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug) used to treat discoid or systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in patients whose symptoms have not improved with other treatments. Hydroxychloroquine can decrease the pain and swelling of arthritis, and can also decrease damage to joints and long-term disability.

This medication is believed to interfere with the communication of cells in the immune system. One of its original uses was to prevent and treat malaria, however, it has been found effective at treating autoimmune diseases such as lupus and RA. It may take between 4-8 weeks before you notice improvements in your signs and symptoms, however, it can take up to 6 months before the full benefits of the medication are experienced.

## ✅ DO's

- Take this medication with food
- Drink plenty of fluids daily
- Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medications (prescription and non-prescription) including: over-the-counter drugs and natural remedies.

## ❌ DON'Ts

- Do not use if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or are trying to become pregnant
- Do not use if your body is fighting off an infection
- Do not use if you excessively drink alcohol
- Do not use if you are experiencing an allergic reaction to the drug

## ⚠️ POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Nausea and diarrhea are the most common side effects, and often improve with time or by taking the medication with food. Less common side effects include: rash changes in skin pigment (such as darkening or dark spots), hair changes, and muscle weakness.

## 🥤 DOSING

**200 mg taken 2 times daily** Hydroxychloroquine is taken orally **2 times** daily with food.

## 👍 MY DOSE: \_\_\_\_\_ mg

I will take \_\_\_\_\_ pills orally, \_\_\_\_\_ a day.