

# Hydroxychloroquine [hi-drox-ee-CLOR-oh-kwin]

Plaquenil®

<http://Rheuminfo.com>  
your rheumatology resource

## How to use this medication

### What is it



Hydroxychloroquine is a medication used to treat different types of arthritis. While taking this medicine it is important to have your eyes checked at least once a year.

### Take it every day



This medicine is taken either once or twice a day.

### Tablets



It only comes in 200 mg tablets. The usual dose is between one and two tablets per day (200 to 400 mg per day).

### Be patient



It will take 8 to 12 weeks for the medicine to work. It is important for you to keep taking the medicine.

## What you need to do

### Get your eyes checked



Have your eyes checked by an eye doctor at least once a year. This is to make sure the medicine isn't affecting the back of the eye.

## Side effects & important facts

### Nausea & diarrhea



Hydroxychloroquine agrees with most people. Rarely it can cause an upset stomach or diarrhea.

### Skin rash



Hydroxychloroquine can rarely cause a rash. Stop the medicine and let your doctor know if you develop a rash. This is rare.

### Headaches



Hydroxychloroquine can rarely cause a headache.

### Pregnancy & breastfeeding



Hydroxychloroquine can be used safely in pregnancy and breastfeeding. Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

### Sun sensitive



Hydroxychloroquine can sometimes make the skin more sensitive to the sun. Wear sunscreen.

## When should I call my doctor

### Please call if you need to stop



- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine

### Other reasons to call your doctor:



Rash



Feeling sick



Ringing in the ears

## Other important information

### Stopping hydroxychloroquine



You can simply stop taking hydroxychloroquine. You do not need to wean off it. Please call your doctor if you stop the medication.

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