

Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone) basics

Lightens areas of darkened skin. Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone) can help lighten your dark spots, but for some people it may not work that well.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone) Drug effectiveness		[Blue bar indicating effectiveness from Day 1 to Month 3]			
Possible side effects†					
Burning sensation	[Red bar indicating burning sensation from Hour 1 to Month 3]				
Redness	[Red bar indicating redness from Hour 1 to Month 3]				
Allergic skin reaction	[Red bar indicating allergic skin reaction from Hour 1 to Day 1]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- The strongest strength available over-the-counter is 2%. Your doctor can prescribe something stronger if needed.
- You should only apply Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone) to small areas of the body (not the entire body), unless directed by a doctor.
- You shouldn't use the over-the-counter product for longer than 3 months without first talking to your doctor.
- It's important that you avoid direct sunlight while on Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone). Be sure to wear sunscreen and protective clothing.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Skin irritation

Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone) can cause skin irritation. Before using, you can test a small amount of product on an area of the skin near the affected area. Do this for a few days. If you notice itching or other bothersome irritations, stop use and speak to your doctor.

Allergic reaction

Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone) contains sodium metabisulfite which can cause allergic reactions. People with asthma are more likely to be allergic. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

Sunburn

Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone) can cause your skin to be more sensitive to sunlight. Sunlight can also cause your skin to darken, which reverses the lightening effect of Alphaquin-hp (hydroquinone). Always wear sunscreen and protective clothing when going out. Avoid prolonged sun exposure and tanning booths.