

primaquine basics

Treats and prevents malaria. primaquine can be effective in treating malarial infections, but there are many precautions while taking primaquine.

What to expect when starting

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



[†] Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take primaquine with food to help with any stomach discomfort.
- Before taking primaquine, let your doctor know if you have any blood or heart problems.
- Don't take primaquine if you have the genetic disorder, G6PD deficiency, or are really sick and have a history of any immune disorders.
- primaquine can interact with many drugs, let your doctor know what medicines you are currently taking.
- If you're taking primaquine to prevent malaria, make sure you start it 1 to 2 days before you arrive at your destination, and to continue it 7 days after you have left.
- Don't take more than 1 pill a day for more than 14 days, unless your doctor has told you otherwise.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Blood problems

primaquine can lower your blood count. Before you take this medication, let your doctor know if you have any blood conditions, or on any medicines that may suppress your bone marrow.

Heart problems

primaquine can cause a heart conduction problem called QT prolongation. Before taking this medicine, make sure you let your doctor know if you have any heart conditions.

Many drug interactions

primaquine has many drug interactions. Before taking this medicine, let your doctor know if you are on any medicines including vitamins and supplements.