

Date:

Dose prescribed by your doctor:

Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil[®])

How this medication works

Hydroxychloroquine is a medication that acts on the immune system to decrease inflammation. It is used to help children and teens with systemic lupus erythematosus, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, or other chronic inflammatory conditions. It may also be used at different doses to prevent and treat malaria.

Hydroxychloroquine starts to work in 8 weeks, but it may take up to 3 months to see the full benefits of this medication.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. The dose (amount to take) is based on your weight and condition. Do not change the dose without talking to your doctor.

Hydroxychloroquine is taken once daily by mouth. The medication comes in 200 mg tablets.

While taking this medication you may notice

Most children and teens do not have side effects while they are taking hydroxychloroquine.

Some possible side effects include:

- skin sensitive to sun
- nausea and diarrhea (rare)
- headaches (rare)
- skin rash (rare)
- deposits on the retina, or back of the eye (rare)

What to remember while taking this medication

Children and teens who take hydroxychloroquine need to have their eyes checked by an eye doctor at least once a year.

You do not need to stop this medication if you are unwell because hydroxychloroquine does not suppress the immune system.

If you develop an itchy hive-like rash, please stop this medication immediately and tell your doctor.