

Chloroquine phosphate:

Class: Antimalarial.

Indications:

Suppression/chemoprophylaxis or treatment of acute malaria due to susceptible *Plasmodium malariae*, *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, *P. falciparum*; extraintestinal amebiasis

Available dosage form in the hospital: 250MG TAB, 150MG TAB.

Trade Names:

Dosage:

Note: Each 250 mg of chloroquine phosphate is equivalent to 150 mg of chloroquine base

- Malaria chemoprophylaxis: Oral: 500 mg/week (300 mg base) on the same day each week; begin 1-2 weeks prior to exposure; continue while in endemic area and for 4 weeks after leaving endemic area (CDC, 2010)
- Malaria treatment: Oral: 1 g (600 mg base) on day 1, followed by 500 mg (300 mg base) 6-, 24-, and 48 hours after first dose (CDC, 2009)
- Extraintestinal amebiasis: Oral: 1 g/day (600 mg base) for 2 days followed by 500 mg/day (300 mg base) for at least 2-3 weeks.
- Rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus (unlabeled uses): Oral: 250 mg (150 mg base) once daily; reduce dosage following maximal response (taper to discontinue after response in lupus); generally requires 3-6 weeks. **Note:** Not considered first-line agent.

Renal Impairment :

The FDA-approved labeling does not contain renal dosing adjustment guidelines; the following guidelines have been used by some clinicians (Arnoff, 2007):

- Cl_{cr} ≥10 mL/minute: No dosage adjustment needed.
- Cl_{cr} <10 mL/minute: Administer 50% of dose.
- Hemodialysis effects: Minimally removed by hemodialysis.
- Hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis: Administer 50% of dose.
- Continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT): Administer 100% of normal dose.

Common side effect: depression, hallucinations, headache, insomnia, hair bleaching, photosensitivity, urticarial, Abdominal cramps, anorexia, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, Hepatitis, liver enzymes increased

Ocular: Accommodation disturbances, blurred vision, corneal opacities (reversible), nyctalopia, retinopathy (including irreversible changes in some patients long-term or high-dose therapy), visual field defects.

Pregnancy Risk Factor: Chloroquine has not been formally assigned to a pregnancy category by the FDA.