

ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL

INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT

Please read this information carefully before taking your medication. If you have any questions ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is malaria?

Malaria is a disease that is caused by the presence of very small organisms (malaria parasites called plasmodia) in the blood. Malaria is a serious but preventable disease spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Anyone, of any age, can get malaria. Human malaria is caused by four species of protozoa belonging to the genus Plasmodium: *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, *P. malariae* and *P. falciparum*. Malaria deaths are frequently the results of delays in the diagnosis and treatment of the infection.

Malaria is widespread in tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. Several different types of malaria may exist within one area, each type requiring its own protective medication.

Malaria is characterized by fever and "flu-like" symptoms such as headache, abdominal and muscle pain, and malaise. Muscle rigidity (rigors) and chills often occur. Severe malaria due to *P.falciparum* may cause seizures, coma, and kidney and lung failure, and may lead to death.

To protect yourself against malaria, it is important to know the risks of acquiring malaria, apply measures to prevent being bitten, take preventative treatment where appropriate and seek early diagnosis and treatment if necessary.

What is ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL?

ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL belongs to a group of medicines called antimalarials. ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL is used to treat and prevent malaria caused by *P. falciparum*, a parasite that is often resistant to other drugs. ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL contains two active ingredients which kill the malarial parasites in your body to treat or prevent malaria.

Each ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablet contains the active ingredients atovaquone 250 mg and proguanil hydrochloride 100 mg.

The non-medicinal ingredients are low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, poloxamer 188, povidone K30 and sodium starch glycollate. The tablet coating contains hypromellose, macrogol 400, polyethylene glycol 8000, red iron oxide, and titanium dioxide.

When ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL should not be used:

Do not use ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL if:

- You are allergic (hypersensitive) to atovaquone or proguanil hydrochloride or to any component of the formulation (see “What is ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL?”).
- You have severe kidney problems. Your doctor will assess this.

Before you take this medicine:

If you or your child answers "yes" to any of the following questions, tell your doctor about this before taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL.

- Have you been told you are allergic to atovaquone, proguanil hydrochloride or any of the other ingredients in ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL listed above?
- Have you been told that your malaria infection is severe and is affecting your lungs, kidneys and/or brain?
- Do you have a history of epilepsy or psychiatric illness?
- Have you ever had malaria before?
- Are you currently suffering from diarrhoea and/or vomiting?
- Are you fasting or unable to eat food?
- Is the medicine to be taken for the prevention of malaria in a child who weighs less than 11 kg?
- Is this medicine to be taken for the treatment of malaria by a child who weighs less than 11 kg or is under 3 years of age?
- Do you have kidney disease or any problems with your kidneys?
- Do you have liver disease or any problems with your liver?
- Are you pregnant or likely to become pregnant soon?
- Are you breastfeeding?

Your doctor will consider the benefit to you and the risk to your baby of taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL while you're pregnant.

Breast-feeding is not recommended during treatment with ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL. The ingredients can pass into the breast milk and so may harm your baby. Talk to your doctor about this.

What if I am taking other medicines?

Always tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking, including tetracycline, metoclopramide, rifampicin, rifabutin, indinavir, efavirenz or highly active protease-inhibitors, anticoagulant medicines, and those you buy yourself (over-the-counter medicines). Some medicines can stop ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL from working properly.

Proper use of ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL:

Take ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL as your doctor has advised you. The usual doses of ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL are given below. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Prevention of malaria:

Adults:

One ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablet daily (250 mg atovaquone and 100 mg proguanil hydrochloride).

Children:

For children over 40 kg in weight, one ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablet (adult strength) once a day.

Dosage for Prevention of Malaria in Pediatric Patients

Weight (kg)	Dosage Regimen
>40	1 ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablet (adult strength) daily

In order to prevent malaria, it is important that you take your ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL every day. Start taking it 1 or 2 days before travelling to a country (or countries) where malaria is transmitted, continue daily dosing while you are there and for another 7 days after returning.

Don't stop ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL without advice

For maximum protection you must take the full course of ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL.

Stopping early puts you at risk of getting malaria. It takes seven days to ensure that parasites sensitive to ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL are killed.

ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL is not recommended for malaria prevention in children weighing less than 11 kg.

At the end of this leaflet, there is other very important information on how, in addition to taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL, you can protect yourself against malaria infection.

Treatment of malaria:

Adults:

Four ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablets (250 mg atovaquone and 100 mg proguanil hydrochloride) once a day for three days.

Children:

One, two or three ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablets (adult strength) once a day for three days depending on your child's weight (see table below). For children over 40 kg in weight, four ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablets (adult strength) once a day for three days.

Dosage for Treatment of Acute Malaria in Pediatric Patients

Weight (kg)	Dosage Regimen
11-20	One ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablet (adult strength) daily for three consecutive days
21-30	Two ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablets (adult strength) as a single dose daily for three consecutive days
31-40	Three ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablets (adult strength) as a single dose daily for three consecutive days
>40	Four ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL Tablets (adult strength) as a single dose daily for three consecutive days

For effective treatment of malaria it is important that ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL is taken exactly as directed over three days.

ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL is not recommended for treatment of malaria in children under 3 years of age or weighing less than 11 kg.

How should ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL be taken?

ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL should be taken with food or a milky drink at the same time each day. ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL should preferably be swallowed whole. The tablets may be crushed and mixed with condensed milk just prior to administration for children who may have difficulty swallowing tablets.

If you are taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL to prevent malaria and you are sick (vomit) within one hour of taking your tablets, take another dose and then go on as before. If you do this you should contact your doctor for more ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL tablets to replace those you brought up. It is important to take the full course of ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL. If you have diarrhoea, continue taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL as prescribed.

If you have been sick (vomited), ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL may not be as effective so it is especially important to use extra protection, such as repellents and bednets.

If you are taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL to treat an attack of malaria and you have diarrhoea or are sick (vomit), tell your doctor. Your doctor may want to check how well these tablets are working and if necessary may decide to change your treatment. A few days after finishing your treatment you should visit your doctor to check that your malaria has been fully treated.

If you feel ill again, particularly if you develop a fever at any time up to a month after finishing your tablets, see your doctor immediately.

There are no special doses for healthy elderly patients. If you have kidney or liver disease, you should inform your doctor.

What to do if you or your child takes too many tablets?

In case of overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.
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What to do if you miss a dose?

If you forget to take a dose, take another as soon as possible and then take the next dose at the right time. Do not double dose. If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What are the possible side effects of ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL?

Although most people find taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL causes no problems, like all medicines ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL can have side effects. The following side effects have been reported in persons taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL or the active ingredients (atovaquone or proguanil). Most of these have been mild and have not lasted very long:

- Tiredness, weakness, giddiness or breathlessness. These symptoms may mean that you are suffering from a reduction in red blood cell count (anemia).
- A reduction in white blood cells (neutropenia)
- Disturbance of the salt balance of the body (hyponatremia)
- Loss of appetite, feeling sick (nausea) and/or being sick (vomiting), stomach pain, diarrhoea or constipation
- Mouth inflammation (swelling, redness, pain) and mouth ulcers
- Allergic reactions including rash, itching and swelling
- Headache, difficulty in sleeping (insomnia), raised body temperature, abnormal dreams, eyesight problems, depression, anxiety
- seeing or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations)
- Hair loss
- Fever
- Cough
- Dizziness
- Abnormal heartbeats
- Back pain, muscle pain
- Inflammation of the liver (hepatitis), yellow discoloration of the skin or eyes (jaundice)
- Inflammation of blood vessels (vasculitis) which may be visible as red or purple raised spots on the skin, but can affect other parts of the body

Dizziness may occur after using this medication. Make sure you know how you react to this medicine before you drive, operate machinery, or do anything requiring you to be alert.

STOP taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL and seek medical attention immediately if you experience any of the following severe allergy symptoms after taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL. Although they are rare, these symptoms could be serious.

- Sudden wheezing, tightness of the chest or throat, or difficulty breathing
- Swollen eyelids, face, lips, tongue or other part of the body
- Skin rash, which may blister and look like small targets (central dark spots surrounded by paler area with a dark ring around the edge [erythema multiforme])
- Widespread rash with blisters and peeling skin, particularly occurring around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome)

If you are having a blood test for any reason, tell the person who is taking your blood sample that you are receiving ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL, or have recently taken ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL, as it may affect your result. The following have been reported in persons taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL:

- Blood tests showing a reduction in the number of red blood cells (anemia), white blood cells (neutropenia), and in people with severe kidney problems also a reduction in the number of platelets (cells necessary for blood clotting).
- Blood tests showing an increase in amylase, which is an enzyme produced by the pancreas, and an increase of enzymes produced by the liver.

Tell your doctor if you get any of these symptoms or any other side effects from your medicine which are not mentioned here.

Storing your medicine:

Store your tablets between 15°C - 30°C. Keep your tablets in a safe place where children cannot see or reach them.

Do not use your tablets after the expiry date shown on the pack.

If your doctor stops your treatment, do not keep any leftover tablets unless your doctor tells you to. Return any unused tablets to your pharmacist for safe disposal.

REMEMBER: This medicine is for you. Never give it to any one else. It may harm them even if they have the same symptoms as you.

How can you further protect yourself against malaria:

A few people may still get malaria despite taking the necessary precautions. Other types of malaria infection (*P. vivax* and *P. ovale* malaria) take a long time to cause symptoms, so the illness may not start until several days, weeks or even months after returning from an area which has malaria. If you develop symptoms similar to flu, such as high temperature, headache and tiredness while you are taking ATOVAQUONE PROGUANIL or within a few months after you have stopped, you should contact your doctor immediately.

If you have been treated for malaria you may develop the illness again in the future and need to be treated again. Contact your doctor for advice if the symptoms of malaria recur.

There are other precautions you can take to reduce the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Wear light-coloured clothing that covers most of the body, especially after sunset. In particular do not forget to cover your arms and legs.
- Use insect repellent on exposed areas of the skin.
- Sleep in a screened room or under a mosquito net impregnated with insecticide. If windows and doors are not screened close them at sunset.
- Consider the use of an insecticide to clear a room of insects before going to bed or to deter mosquitoes from entering the room.

Consult your doctor or local travel clinic for the best protection against malaria.