

Ohio Poison Control System

1-800-222-1222

Poisoning Fact Sheet for Public

Hydroxychloroquine & Chloroquine



CHLOROQUINE (KLOR oh kwin) is the generic name for Aralen®. It is used to treat or prevent malaria infections. HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE (hye drox ee KLOR oh kwin) is the generic name for Plaquenil®. It is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus. It is also used to treat malaria.

Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are used in selected cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine can cause serious illness and death when taken inappropriately, or in overdose. If this medication is prescribed to you, follow the directions on the prescription label. Do not take it more often than directed. If you miss a dose, contact your doctor or pharmacist. Do not take these medications if they are not prescribed to you.

Do not seek alternative products containing chloroquine. Ingestion of these products can cause serious harm and death.

What symptoms can these medicines cause in overdose?

Mild Symptoms

- Stomach pain, nausea, vomiting
- Headache
- Changes in vision
- Decreased hearing or ringing of the ears

Severe symptoms

- Symptoms of a dangerous change in heartbeat or heart rhythm like chest pain; dizziness; fast or irregular heartbeat; palpitations; feeling faint or lightheaded, falls; breathing problems
- Seizures
- Sensitivity to light
- Symptoms of low blood sugar like feeling anxious; confusion; dizziness; increased hunger; unusually weak or tired; sweating; shakiness; cold; irritable; headache; blurred vision; fast heartbeat; loss of consciousness
- Uncontrollable head, mouth, neck, arm, or leg movements
- Loss of consciousness

What should I do if I think that I, or someone I know, has accidentally ingested or overdosed on these medications?

- Stop taking hydroxychloroquine/chloroquine
- **Call your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.**
- Notify your doctor or pharmacist.
- Do not attempt to induce vomiting and do not ingest substances to counteract the effects of overdose. This can cause serious harm.

Where should I keep my medicine?

Store all medicines out of sight and up high out of the reach of children. Contact poison control, your doctor, or pharmacist to learn how to dispose of unused medicine when you are no longer taking it.