



Side effects of antimalarials

This is a summary of the side effects –**please read the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) for a full list of side effects and speak to your pharmacist if you would like to know more.** Side effects from antimalarials are usually a minor nuisance and unlikely to affect your activities. Serious side effects are more unusual. If they occur, STOP taking the medicine and consult a doctor immediately.

Numbers affected	Atovaquone + Proguanil (Malarone™)	Doxycycline
Very common - may affect more than 1:10	Headache, feeling sick and being sick, stomach pain, diarrhoea	Worsening of the condition systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
Common - may affect 1:10 to 1:100	Dizziness; sleep problems; strange dreams; depression; loss of appetite; raised temperature; rash; itching; cough. Blood tests show reduced numbers of red cells or white cells, low sodium levels or raised liver enzymes, allergic reactions	Feeling sick or being sick, heartburn, vaginal infection, headache, sensitivity to sunlight, pericarditis (inflammation which affects the heart)
Uncommon - may affect 1:100 to 1:1000	Anxiety; heartbeat problems (palpitations); swelling and redness of the mouth; hair loss; itchy, bumpy rash (hives) Blood test changes may show an increase in amylase, a pancreatic enzyme	Anxiety; skin reddening or flushing. Loss of appetite; severe, persistent or bloody diarrhoea; stomach pain; difficulty swallowing; sore or painful mouth or tongue Ringing in the ears; soreness and itching (thrush) around the anus or genitals. Problems affecting the liver, pancreas or nails. Darker patches on the skin, fever, blood disorders
Rare - may affect 1:1000 to 1:10,000	Hallucinations	Inflammation of the bowel or digestive system (colitis), inflammation and/or ulcers of the gullet (oesophagus). Fever, swollen lymph nodes or skin rash- these may be symptoms of a condition known as DRESS (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms). Porphyria, blistering, fixed eruption and severe skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome Aching joints or muscles, upset stomach. Visual disturbances such as blurred vision, double vision or loss of vision Severe headache with visual disturbances (may indicate benign intracranial hypertension)
Very rare - may affect fewer than 1:10,000		Allergic reactions; sudden wheeziness, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, fever, swelling of eye lids, face or lips, rash, itching, low blood pressure, increased heart rate
Not known how often these occur	Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis): signs include rash and itching, sudden wheezing, tightness of the chest or throat, or difficulty breathing or low blood pressure, swollen eyelids, face, lips, tongue, or other part of the body Severe widespread rash with blisters and peeling skin, particularly occurring around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals (Stevens-Johnson syndrome). Skin rash which may blister and looks like small targets (central dark spots, surrounded by paler area with a dark ring around the edge - erythema multiforme) Inflammation of the liver, blockage of the bile ducts, indigestion, fast heart rate, vasculitis (inflammation of the blood vessels), fits (seizures), panic attacks, crying, nightmares, mental health problems including psychosis Mouth ulcers, peeling or sensitivity to sunlight, a decrease in all blood cells	Discolouration and/or lack of growth of teeth

Numbers affected	Mefloquine (Lariam™)	Chloroquine (Avloclor™)
Very common - may affect more than 1:10	Sleeping problems such as sleepiness, being unable to sleep or bad dreams	
Common - may affect 1:10 to 1:100	Depression, anxiety, dizziness, headache, problems with your vision, loss of balance (vertigo), feeling or being sick, diarrhoea, stomach ache, itching	
Uncommon - may affect 1:100 to 1:1000		
Rare - may affect 1:1000 to 1:10,000	Hallucinations; changes in liver function or abnormal liver function tests; cardiomyopathy (damage to the heart muscle)	
Very rare - may affect fewer than 1:10,000		
Not known how often these occur	<p>Mental Health problems varying from mild (e.g., feeling restless, panic attacks, agitation, disturbance of attention, confusion) to severe (e.g., suicide, psychotic disorder, paranoia, aggression, hallucinations, mood changes and self-harm)</p> <p>Abnormal blood test results showing a decrease or increase in white cells or a decrease in red blood cells or platelets. Allergic reactions; mild to severe, potentially life threatening, including difficulty in breathing, swollen tongue, itching and severe rash.</p> <p>Mild to severe problems affecting the skin (including Stevens-Johnson syndrome), or hair loss, lungs (including breathlessness and cough), liver, kidneys, eyes, ears, (including tinnitus), muscles, joints, digestion (indigestion) and pancreas. Decreased appetite.</p> <p>Heart problems e.g., severe changes in heartbeat, including pounding, racing, or skipped beats (palpitations), changes to blood pressure and hot flushes. Mild to severe problems affecting the nervous system (including fits or seizures, amnesia, faints, problems with movement, thought processes, speech or senses of touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing). Neuropathy including pins and needles, weakness, clumsiness, or unsteadiness. Tiredness, muscle/joint pain, chest pain, sweating, chills, or fever.</p> <p>Some side-effects may continue to occur after stopping Lariam.</p>	<p>Chloroquine can cause lowering of the blood glucose level. Please ask your pharmacist to inform you of signs and symptoms of low blood glucose levels. A check of the blood glucose level may be necessary</p> <p>Allergic reactions; mild to severe, potentially life threatening, including symptoms such as difficulty in breathing, swollen tongue, itching and severe rash</p> <p>Bone marrow, blood cell and platelet reductions; eye and sight problems; reduction or loss of hearing; ringing in the ears (tinnitus); headaches; dizziness; fits (seizures); problems with movements; lung disease</p> <p>Low blood pressure, changes to the rhythm of the heartbeat; stomach disorders such as pain, feeling or being sick or diarrhoea, muscle weakness</p> <p>Mental health problems including anxiety, depression, personality change, confusion, sleeping problems, thoughts of self-harm or suicide, psychosis, aggression, delusion, feeling elated or overexcited, lack of concentration, paranoia, irrational thoughts, hallucinations and agitation</p> <p>Skin changes may include discolouration, peeling, blisters, rash or sensitivity to sunlight. If associated with fever and/or swollen lymph nodes these may be symptoms of a condition known as DRESS (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms). Blistering and severe skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Hair changes (colour and loss)</p>