Chloroquine Diphosphate (Antimalarial)

Adult dose: Chloroquine diphosphate 500 mg once weekly (equivalent to 310 mg base) *Please note that chloroquine is supplied as chloroquine diphosphate 250 mg tablets. Each 250 mg tablet contains 155 mg chloroquine base.

Pediatric dose: 5 mg/kg base once weekly, up to 310 mg base once weekly

Begin taking this drug 1 week before entering malarial area. Take it weekly on the same day of the week while you are in a malarial area, and for 4 weeks after you leave malarial area.

Adverse effects:
- Frequent: Nausea, headache, non-allergic pruritus (itching) in black-skinned individuals.
- Occasional: Skin eruptions, reversible corneal opacity (the cornea in your eye may become cloudy).
- Rare: Nail and mucous membrane discoloration, partial hair loss, light sensitivity, hearing loss, muscle weakness or cramps, blood disorders, psychosis, seizures.

Do not use this drug if you:
- Have known hypersensitivity to chloroquine or related compounds.
- Have retinal or visual field changes due to any etiology.
- Have a history of epilepsy or generalized psoriasis.

Comments about using chloroquine:
- Suitable for pregnant or breastfeeding women.
- May be easier on your body when taken with food.
- Recommended drug of choice in chloroquine-sensitive areas.
- Although suitable for all ages, overdoses are frequently fatal.
- Take less of this drug if you have severe kidney impairment.
- If you take hydroxychloroquine long-term for rheumatologic conditions, chloroquine or additional hydroxychloroquine may not be required.