

WHO-PQ RECOMMENDED PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

*This patient information leaflet focuses on uses of the medicine covered by WHO's Prequalification Team - Medicines. The recommendations for use are based on WHO guidelines and on information from stringent regulatory authorities.**

The medicine may be authorised for additional or different uses by national medicines regulatory authorities.

* https://extranet.who.int/prequal/sites/default/files/document_files/75%20SRA%20clarification_Feb2017_newtempl.pdf

Information for the patient

[MA056 trade name][†]

Amodiaquine (hydrochloride)/artesunate

If you are a carer or parent looking after the person who takes this medicine, use this leaflet to give the medicine correctly and take note of the warnings and side effects.

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have questions about the medicine, ask your health care provider.
- This medicine is for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their illness seems to be the same as yours.
- If you are concerned about any side effects, talk to your health care provider. This includes unwanted effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What [MA056 trade name] is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take [MA056 trade name]
3. How to take [MA056 trade name]
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store [MA056 trade name]
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What [MA056 trade name] is and what it is used for

[MA056 trade name] is a medicine used to treat malaria. It contains two active substances, artesunate and amodiaquine, which work together to kill the malaria parasite.

Malaria is caused by infection with a parasite, spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. [MA056 trade name] is normally used when the malaria is caused by a type of malaria parasite called *Plasmodium falciparum*. It can be used only when the infection is not severe enough to affect the brain or other key organs.

[MA056 trade name] may sometimes also be given to everybody in an area to reduce the spread of malaria. Your health care provider will explain to you if this is the case.

Your health care provider will follow the most recent official guidelines on the use of malaria medicines to select the right medicine for your malaria treatment.

2. What you need to know before you take [MA056 trade name]

Do not take [MA056 trade name]

- if you are allergic to artesunate, amodiaquine or to any of the other ingredients of [MA056 trade name] (see section 6, What [MA056 trade name] contains);
- if you have ever had liver problems (see below) during treatment with amodiaquine;
- if you have ever been told you had low white blood cell counts (especially if you had symptoms such as sudden high fevers with sore throat or ulcers in the mouth) during treatment with amodiaquine;
- if you have an eye disease with damage to your retina.

[†] Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory agency's responsibility.

If you have any doubt, check with your health care provider.

Take special care with [MA056 trade name]

This medicine may rarely damage the liver or cause blood problems that can be serious. Tell your health care provider before starting treatment if you have problems with your liver or kidneys, or any blood disorder, including sickle cell disease or thalassaemia. Also tell your health care provider if you have previously been advised that you have a condition called glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency, which may make you sensitive to certain medicines.

Stop treatment with [MA056 trade name] and speak with your health care provider straightaway if you:

- lose your appetite, or get nausea (feel sick), or feel tired all the time, or you have a rash

and you have any of the following

- belly pain, usually on the right side and near the chest
- unexplained itching
- yellowing of the white parts of your eyes, your nails or your skin
- passing dark urine
- passing stools that are very pale

These are signs of a problem with your liver, which can become serious.

You should also stop treatment and contact your health care provider straightaway if you get high fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers, which may be signs of blood problems.

This medicine may sometimes affect the activity of your heart. Tell your health care provider if:

- you have ever had heart problems, especially a problem with your heart rhythm or a slow heartbeat;
- a close relative has had heart rhythm problems or died suddenly;
- you have low levels of potassium or magnesium in your blood.

Tell your health care provider if you have used this or another amodiaquine-containing medicine very recently. This is because you are more likely to get side effects.

This medicine may cause abnormal movements of the head, tongue or neck (extrapyramidal symptoms, see section 4, Possible side effects). These symptoms usually disappear when you stop the treatment. If these rare effects occur, stop the treatment and speak with your health care provider immediately. You may need other treatment for these symptoms. Your doctor may recommend another malaria treatment.

If in doubt, always ask your health care provider.

Taking other medicines

It is important to tell your health care provider if you have been taking or are planning to take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Some medicines and [MA056 trade name] interfere with each other, or may increase the risk of side effects.

Some of these medicines include:

- efavirenz, lopinavir, nevirapine, ritonavir, saquinavir – medicines used to treat HIV
- gemfibrozil – to treat high cholesterol or excess fat in the blood
- ketoconazole – for fungal infections
- methoxsalen – for skin diseases
- montelukast – for asthma
- pilocarpine – a medicine for eye problems or dry mouth
- tranylcypromine – a medicine for depression
- trimethoprim – for infections.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Tell your health care provider if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking the medicine.

[MA056 trade name] is one of several malaria treatments that can be used in pregnancy – your health care provider will select the most appropriate malaria medicine for your situation. If you are given [MA056 trade

name] while pregnant, your health care provider may carry out extra checks on how your pregnancy progresses.

You may breast-feed your baby while taking this medicine, but tell your health care provider if you are breast feeding.

Driving and using machines

If you feel dizzy or tired after taking this medicine, you should not drive or operate machinery.

3. How to take [MA056 trade name]

Always take [MA056 trade name] exactly as your health care provider has told you. Check with your health care provider if you are not sure.

The dose depends on the weight of the person taking the medicine. The usual dose is:

Weight	Dose
less than 9 kg	1 tablet [MA056 trade name] daily for 3 days
9 kg to 18 kg	2 tablets [MA056 trade name] daily for 3 days

For persons weighing more than 18 kg, the health care provider will normally prescribe another medicine containing more of the active substances, to reduce the number of tablets needed.

Do not take [MA056 trade name] with a meal that contains a high amount of fat.

Swallow the tablet with a drink of water.

For a very young child or a person who cannot swallow the tablets whole, the tablets can be crushed and swallowed with water, or mixed with water and swallowing the mixture.

If you vomit within half-an-hour of taking the tablets, take another dose as soon as you can. Then contact your health care provider for more tablets to finish the course. Tell your health care provider if you keep vomiting.

If you take more [MA056 trade name]

If you accidentally take too many tablets, then you or somebody else should immediately contact a health care provider or the nearest hospital emergency department. An overdose of this medicine can cause headaches, dizziness, visual disturbances, a drop in blood pressure, convulsions (seizures or fits), or abnormal movements of the head, tongue or neck. If any of these symptoms occur, see a health care provider immediately.

If you forget to take [MA056 trade name]

Make sure that you do not miss a dose of this medicine. However, if you forget a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Take the next dose as usual. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

If you stop taking [MA056 trade name]

For this medicine to work properly you must take it regularly until you finish the course. Even if you feel better, it does not mean that your malaria has been completely cured. Tiredness, nausea and vomiting may be caused by the infection and not by the medicine so you should not stop your medicine if you get these effects.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your health care provider.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, [MA056 trade name] can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Common side effects (affects 1 to 10 users in 100): loss of appetite, difficulty sleeping, sleepiness, cough, nausea, belly pain, weakness, sleepiness, alteration of the activity of the heart (called 'prolongation of QT interval').

Uncommon side effects (affects 1 to 10 users in 1000): acute bronchitis, gastroenteritis, oral thrush, decrease in red blood cell count (anaemia), low blood sugar, hallucination (seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there), tingling and numbness of the limbs, yellowing of the white of the eye, dizziness, heart rhythm disorders, slow heart rate, diarrhoea, vomiting, itching, rashes, swelling of the face, skin disorders, joint pain, swelling of the limbs (oedema), fever.

Rare side effects (affect 1 to 10 users in 10 000): damage to nerves and muscles (neuromyopathy)

Very rare side effects (affecting less than 1 in 10 000 users): damage to the retina (the back of the eye) affecting vision

Other side effects reported whose frequency has not been established: allergy, low number of white blood cells (which can make you more prone to infections), nervous system disorders called extrapyramidal disorders (including spasms or abnormal movements of the tongue, face and head, and difficulty speaking or moving normally), headache, fits (convulsions), difficulty focusing vision, clouding of the clear layer over the eye, potentially severe disturbances of liver function, enlarged spleen, yellowing of the skin and eyes, slate-grey coloration of the skin (especially of the fingers), and mucous membranes (lining of body cavities), cold, flu, rhinitis (runny nose), shivering, and sore throat.

Some of these effects may be caused by the malaria.

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effect not listed in this leaflet, tell your health care provider.

Reporting of side effects

If you get a side effect, talk to your health care provider. This includes side effects not listed in this leaflet. You may also be able to report such effects directly to your national reporting system if one is available. By reporting side effects, you can help to improve the available information on this medicine.

5. How to store [MA056 trade name]

Store this medicine in its original package below 30°C.

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date stated on the label, carton or bottle after EXP:.The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

The tablets may be mottled but it does not alter the safety and effectiveness of the product.

Do not throw away any medicines in wastewater or household waste. Ask your health care provider how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What [MA056 trade name] contains

- The active ingredients are amodiaquine (as hydrochloride) and artesunate.
- The other ingredient(s) of [MA056 trade name] are croscarmellose sodium, povidone K30, silica colloidal anhydrous, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate and calcium carbonate DC CS90 (calcium carbonate and maize starch).

There is too little sodium in this medicine to have any effect, even if you are on a low-sodium diet.

What [MA056 trade name] looks like and contents of the pack

[MA056 trade name] are round, uncoated tablets, yellow on one side and white to slightly yellow on the other side. The tablets may be mottled. They are flat on top and bottom with bevelled edges. The tablets have 'A' and 'S' debossed (stamped into), separated by a score line, on the white to slightly yellow side and '25' debossed (stamped into) on the yellow side.

The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

[MA056 trade name] is packaged in aluminium foil on aluminium foil blister cards, each containing 3 tablets. Available in boxes of 1x3 or 25x3 tablets.

Supplier and Manufacturer

Supplier

Sanofi
82, Avenue Raspail
94250 Gentilly – France
Tel : +33 (0)1 41 24 70 00

Manufacturer

MAPHAR Laboratories
Boulevard ALKIMIA N°6
Quartier industriel Sidi Bernoussi
20250 Casablanca
Morocco

Sanofi-Aventis Maroc (batch release)
Route de Rabat R.P.1 – Ain Sebaa
20250 Casablanca - Morocco

For any information about this medicine, contact the local representative of the supplier.

This leaflet was last revised in March 2025

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website:
<https://extranet.who.int/prequal/medicines/prequalified/finished-pharmaceutical-products>