

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 (term to be revised).
The medicine may be authorised for additional or different uses by national medicines regulatory authorities.*

Information for the patient

[MA131 trade name] ¹

Dihydroartemisinin /piperazine (as phosphate) 40mg/320mg Tablets

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 has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness seem to be the same as yours.
- If you get 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 [MA131 trade name] is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take [MA131 trade name]
3. How to take [MA131 trade name]
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store [MA131 trade name]
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What [MA131 trade name] is and what it is used for

[MA131 trade name] contains the active substances piperazine tetraphosphate and dihydroartemisinin. It is used to treat uncomplicated malaria when use of a medicine given by mouth is appropriate.

Malaria is caused by infection with a parasite called *Plasmodium*, spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. There are different types of *Plasmodium* parasite. [MA131 trade name] kills all types of *Plasmodium* parasite.

2. What you need to know before you take [MA131 trade name]

Do not take [MA131 trade name] if you or your child:

- is allergic (hypersensitive) to the active substances, piperazine tetraphosphate or dihydroartemisinin, or to any of the other ingredients of [MA131 trade name] (see section 6 for a list of these);
- has a severe type of malaria infection which has affected parts of the body such as the brain, lungs or kidneys;
- has a heart condition, such as changes to the rhythm or rate of the heartbeat, or heart disease;
- knows that any member of your family (parents, grandparents, brothers or sisters) died suddenly due to a heart problem or was born with heart problems;
- suffers from changes to the levels of salts in the body (electrolyte imbalances);
- is taking other medicines that can have an effect on heart rhythm, such as:
 - quinidine, disopyramide, procainamide, amiodarone, dofetilide, ibutilide, hydroquinidine or sotalol;
 - medicines used to treat depression;

¹Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory agency's responsibility.

- medicines used to treat mental health problems such as phenothiazines, sertindole, sultopride, chlorpromazine, haloperidol, mesoridazine, pimozide, or thioridazine;
 - medicines used to treat infections. These include some of the types of medicines used to treat bacterial infections (macrolides [such as erythromycin or clarithromycin] and fluoroquinolones [such as moxifloxacin and sparfloxacin]) or fungal infections (including fluconazole and imidazole) as well as pentamidine (used to treat a specific type of pneumonia) and saquinavir (for treatment of HIV);
 - antihistamines used to treat allergies or inflammation such as terfenadine, astemizole or mizolastine;
 - certain medicines used to treat stomach problems such as cisapride, domperidone or droperidol;
 - other medicines such as vinca alkaloids and arsenic trioxide (used to treat certain cancers), bepridil (used to treat angina), diphemanil (used to treat stomach disturbances), levomethadyl and methadone (used to treat drug addiction), and probucol (used to treat high blood cholesterol levels).
- has recently (for example within about one month) been treated for malaria with certain medicines or has taken certain medicines to prevent malaria. These medicines include: mefloquine, halofantrine, lumefantrine, chloroquine or quinine.

If any of the above applies to you or your child or if you are unsure, tell your health care provider before taking or giving [MA131 trade name].

Take special care with [MA131 trade name]

Check with your health care provider before taking this medicine if you or your child:

- has liver or kidney problems;
- is taking or has taken any other medicines for the treatment of malaria (other than those mentioned above);
- is pregnant or breastfeeding (see below);
- is female, elderly (over 65 years) or vomiting;
- is taking certain other medicines which could interact with [MA131 trade name]. Examples are listed in the section “Taking other medicines”.

If you are not sure about any of the above, please ask your health care provider.

Use in children

[MA131 trade name] can be used in infants and children. The dose depends on the weight of the child. Your health care provider will tell you how many tablets of [MA131 trade name] to give your child.

Taking other medicines

Please tell your health care provider if you or your child is taking or has recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Some medicines can affect the way [MA131 trade name] works and your health care provider may decide that [MA131 trade name] is not suitable or that extra checks are needed while you or your child is taking certain medicines which may interact with [MA131 trade name]. Examples are listed below (but there are several others):

- some medicines used to treat high cholesterol in the blood (such as atorvastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin);
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure and heart problems (such as diltiazem, nifedipine, nitrendipine, verapamil, felodipine, amlodipine);
- some medicines used to treat HIV (antiretroviral medicinal products): protease inhibitors (such as amprenavir, atazanavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (such as efavirenz, nevirapine);
- some medicines used to treat microbial infections (such as telithromycin, rifampicin, dapsone);

- medicines used to help you fall asleep: benzodiazepines (such as midazolam, triazolam, diazepam, alprazolam), zaleplon, zolpidem;
- medicines used to prevent/treat epileptic seizures (fits): barbiturates (such as phenobarbital), carbamazepine or phenytoin;
- medicines used after organ transplantation and in autoimmune diseases (such as cyclosporin, tacrolimus);
- sex hormones, including those contained in hormonal contraceptives (such as gestodene, progesterone, estradiol), testosterone;
- glucocorticoids (hydrocortisone, dexamethasone);
- omeprazole (used to treat diseases related to gastric acid production);
- paracetamol (used to treat pain and fever);
- theophylline (used to make breathing easier);
- nefazodone (used to treat depression);
- aprepitant (used to treat nausea); - some gases (such as enflurane, halothane and isoflurane) used to give a general anaesthetic.

Taking [MA131 trade name] without food and drink

You should take [MA131 trade name] tablets with water only.

You should take this medicine on an empty stomach. You should take each dose no less than 3 hours after the last food intake, and no food should be taken within 3 hours after each dose of [MA131 trade name]. You can drink water at any time. You should not take [MA131 trade name] with grapefruit juice due to possible interactions.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Tell your health care provider if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or become pregnant, or if you are breast-feeding.

[MA131 trade name] must not be used in pregnancy if your health care provider can give you an alternative medicine. If you receive [MA131 trade name] while pregnant, please note that a pregnancy registry is in place to monitor the pregnancy outcomes.

You should not breast-feed your baby while taking this medicine.

If you are taking folate supplements to prevent possible neural tube birth defects, you can continue taking them at the same time as [MA131 trade name].

Ask your health care provider for advice before taking any medicine during pregnancy or breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

You can drive or use machines after taking [MA131 trade name].

3. How to take [MA131 trade name]

Always take [MA131 trade name] exactly as your doctor has told you to. You should check with your health care provider if you are not sure.

Take this medicine with water and on an empty stomach. You or your child should take each dose at least 3 hours after your last meal. You should also avoid eating until 3 hours after taking [MA131 trade name]. You can drink water at any time.

If the tablets are difficult to swallow, you can crush and mix them with water; drink the mixture immediately.

A course of [MA131 trade name] lasts 3 consecutive days. Take one dose on each day. You should try to take the dose at about the same time on each of the three days.

The daily dose depends on the patient's **body weight**. Your health care provider should have prescribed a dose that is appropriate for your weight or your child's weight as follows:

Body weight	Dose
25 kg to less than 36 kg	2 tablets per day for 3 days
36 kg to less than 60 kg	3 tablets per day for 3 days
60 kg to less than 80 kg	4 tablets per day for 3 days
80 kg or more	5 tablets per day for 3 days

If your weight or your child's weight is less than 25 kg, you should use a lower strength tablet.

If you cannot swallow the tablet, break or crush the tablet (by using the tip of a spoon) and add it to a small amount of liquid or semi-solid food. Swallow all the mixture immediately.

Vomiting when taking this medicine:

If this happens within:

- 30 minutes of taking [MA131 trade name], the whole dose must be taken again.
- 31-60 minutes, half the dose must be taken again.

If you or your child vomit also the second dose, do not take or give your child another dose. Contact your health care provider urgently to obtain an alternative treatment for malaria.

Taking this medicine, if the malaria infection returns:

- If you or your child gets another attack of malaria you may take a second course of [MA131 trade name] within one year if your health care provider thinks this is a suitable treatment. You or your child must not take more than two courses within one year. If this happens, talk to your health care provider. You or your child should not take a second course of [MA131 trade name] within 2 months of the first course.
- If you or your child is infected more than twice in a year, your health care provider will prescribe an alternative treatment.

If you or your child takes more [MA131 trade name] tablets than you should:

If you or your child takes more than the recommended dose, tell your health care provider. Your health care provider may suggest special monitoring for you or your child because doses higher than those recommended may have an unwanted, severe effect on your heart (see also section 4).

If you or your child forgets to take [MA131 trade name]:

If you or your child forgets to take the second dose of [MA131 trade name] at the right time, take it as soon as you remember. Then take the third (last) dose approximately 24 hours after the second dose. If you or your child forgets to take the third (last) dose at the right time, take it as soon as you remember.

Never take more than one dose on the same day to make up for a missed dose.

Check with your health care provider if you are not sure.

If you or your child stops taking [MA131 trade name]:

For the medicine to work effectively, you or your child should take the tablets as instructed and should complete the 3 days course of treatment. If you or your child is not able to do this, talk to your health care provider.

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

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, [MA131 trade name] can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Most of the side effects are not severe and normally disappear within a few days or weeks after treatment.

If you or your child gets a rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat with difficulty in swallowing or breathing, these may be signs of an allergic reaction. Tell your health care provider immediately or go immediately to the emergency department of your nearest hospital, taking this leaflet with you.

A heart problem called QT prolongation can occur in some people who take [MA131 trade name], particularly those who have a heart condition or are taking another medication that can cause the same problem. Tell your health care provider if you or your child have a heart condition or are taking any medications. Your health care provider can advise you about using [MA131 trade name].

If you notice anything different about your or your child's heart rhythm or have symptoms (such as palpitations or irregular heart beat) you should contact your health care provider as soon as possible and before the next dose is due.

Side effects in adults:

Common (affecting less than 1 in 10 patients but more than 1 in 100):

Low red blood cell counts (anaemia), headache, heart rhythm disturbances (ECG changes or noticing unusually fast heart beats or palpitations), fever, general weakness.

Uncommon (affecting less than 1 in 100 patients but more than 1 in 1000):

Influenza, respiratory infections, poor appetite or loss of appetite, dizziness, convulsions (fits), irregular or slow heart rate, cough, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, nausea, inflammation or enlargement of the liver, abnormal liver function tests, itching, pain in the muscles or joints.

Side effects in children:

Very common (affecting more than 1 in 10 patients):

Influenza, cough, fever.

Common (affecting less than 1 in 10 patients but more than 1 in 100):

Respiratory infections, ear infection, low red blood cell counts (anaemia), abnormalities in various types of blood cells (white blood cells and platelets), poor appetite or loss of appetite, eye infection, heart rhythm disturbances (change as in adults, ECG changes), abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, skin inflammation, rash, general weakness.

Uncommon (affecting less than 1 in 100 patients but more than 1 in 1000):

Abnormalities in red blood cells, excessive numbers of platelets, enlargement of some organs (such as liver or spleen), swollen lymph glands, convulsions (fits), headache, abnormal heart sounds (heard by your doctor with a stethoscope), nose bleeds, runny nose, nausea, inflammation of the mouth, inflammation or enlargement of the liver, jaundice, abnormal liver function blood tests, skin itching and inflammation, pain in the joints.

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

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your health care provider. This includes unwanted effects not listed in this leaflet. If available, you can also report side effects directly through the national reporting system. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store [MA131 trade name]

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

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

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 [MA131 trade name] contains

- The active substances are Dihydroartemisinin and piperaquine (as phosphate)
- The other ingredients of [MA131 trade name] are excipients:
Core tablet: Pregelatinized starch, Hypromellose, Dextrin, Croscarmellose sodium, Magnesium stearate

Film coat: Polyvinyl alcohol, Titanium dioxide, Macrogol/ Polyethylene glycol, Talc, FD&C Blue #2/Indigo carmine aluminium lake

What [MA131 trade name] looks like and contents of the pack

[MA131 trade name] are blue round, film-coated tablet debossed with a score line on one side.

The score line is intended for subdivision of tablets when half a tablet dose is to be administered as supported by divisibility studies.

Nature and contents of the pack

PA/Alu/PVC-Alu blister. Each blister contains 9 tablets. 25 such blisters are packed in a carton.

Pack size: 25×9 Tablets

PA/Alu/PVC-Alu blister. Each blister contains 9 tablets. 1 such blister is packed in a carton.

Pack size: 1×9 Tablets

PA/Alu/PVC-Alu blister. Each blister contains 6 tablets. 1 such blister is packed in a carton.

Pack size: 1×6 Tablets

PA/Alu/PVC-Alu blister. Each blister contains 6 tablets. 2 such blisters are packed in a carton.

Pack size: 2×6 Tablets

Supplier

Guilin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd
No. 43, Qilidian Road, Guilin 541004
Guangxi, China.

Manufacturer

Guilin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd
Oral Solid Dosage Workshop 1
No. 43, Qilidian Road, Guilin 541004
Guangxi, China.

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

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Section 6 was updated in May 2024

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) web site:
<https://extranet.who.int/prequal/>.