

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/pqweb/sites/default/files/documents/75%20SRA%20clarification_Feb2017_newtempl.pdf

Information for the patient

[MA154 trade name][†]
Artemether/lumefantrine

*The warnings and instructions in this leaflet are intended for the person taking the medicine.
If you are a parent or carer responsible for giving the medicine to someone else such as a child,
you will need to apply the instructions accordingly.*

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 [MA154 trade name] is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take [MA154 trade name]
3. How to take [MA154 trade name]
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store [MA154 trade name]
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What [MA154 trade name] is and what it is used for

[MA154 trade name] is a medicine used to treat malaria in adults and children. It contains two active substances, artemether and lumefantrine, which work together to kill the malaria parasite.

Malaria is caused by infection with a parasite called *Plasmodium*, spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. [MA154 trade name] is used when the malaria is caused by a type of malaria parasite called *Plasmodium falciparum* and only when the infection is not severe enough to affect the brain or other key organs.

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 [MA154 trade name]

Do not take [MA154 trade name]:

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to artemether, lumefantrine, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed at the end of this leaflet). If you think you may be allergic, ask your health care provider for advice.
- if your health care provider tells you that you have severe malaria (affecting the brain or with complications affecting other organs such as lungs or kidneys).
- if you have a heart condition, such as dangerously irregular heartbeats (arrhythmias), an alteration in the electrical activity of the heart called prolonged QT interval, slow heartbeat, or severe heart disease.

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

- if any member of your family (e.g. parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters) has died suddenly due to a heart rate problem or is known to have been born with heart rate problems.
- if you are taking certain medicines (see “Other medicines and [MA154 trade name]”).
- if you have low blood levels of electrolytes such as potassium or magnesium.

If any of these apply to you, **tell your health care provider before taking [MA154 trade name]**.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your health care provider **before taking [MA154 trade name]**:

- If you have severe liver or kidney problems. Your health care provider may recommend extra tests to monitor your heart and the level of potassium in your blood.

Take special care with [MA154 trade name]:

- If your condition worsens, or if you feel too unwell to eat and drink, contact your health care provider immediately. Your health care provider may want to perform a test called an electrocardiogram (ECG) and check the levels of electrolytes, such as potassium and magnesium in your blood before and during treatment.
- If you are taking or have taken any other medication for the treatment of malaria, talk to your health care provider, because some of these medicines must not be given together with [MA154 trade name].
- [MA154 trade name] is used to treat malaria due to *Plasmodium falciparum*. If you are also infected with another type of malaria parasite, *Plasmodium vivax*, your health care provider will give you another medicine for you to take after completing [MA154 trade name] treatment.

Other medicines and [MA154 trade name]

It is important that you tell your health care provider if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. These may affect the action of [MA154 trade name], or [MA154 trade name] may affect their action. Side effects of either medicine may become worse and/or the medicines may become less effective.

Especially tell your health care provider if you take or have recently taken:

- Any other medicines to treat or prevent malaria
- Medicines for your heart
- Antipsychotic medicines (for treatment of abnormal condition of the mind)
- Antidepressants (medicines for depression and low mood)
- Antibiotics
- Antihistamines (for treatment of, e.g., allergies)
- Medicines to treat HIV infection
- Medicines to treat hepatitis B or hepatitis C infection
- Medicines against fungal infection
- Hormonal methods of birth control (for example birth control pills or contraceptive patch)

[MA154 trade name] with food and drink

[MA154 trade name] should be taken with food or a milky drink.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

Pregnancy

[MA154 trade name] can be used during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

The amounts of the active substances of [MA154 trade name] that pass into breast milk are low and [MA154 trade name] can be used during breast-feeding.

Fertility

There is no information on the effects of [MA154 trade name] on fertility in humans.

Driving and using machines

[MA154 trade name] may cause dizziness and tiredness. If you feel dizzy or tired while taking [MA154 trade name], do not drive and do not use any tools or machines.

3. How to take [MA154 trade name]

Your health care provider will explain to you how many tablets of [MA154 trade name] to take. The dose depends on your weight. You should take the medicine for 3 days, with no breaks in between.

Patients weighing 15 mg to less than 25 kg

The recommended dose is one tablet of [MA154 trade name] twice a day for 3 days (a total of 6 doses).

Patients weighing 35 kg and above

The recommended dose is 2 tablets of [MA154 trade name] twice a day for 3 days (a total of 6 doses).

This product is *not suitable for patients who weigh less than 15 kg or who weigh between 25 up to 35 kg*, for whom another medicine containing different amounts of the active substances should be used.

Disperse the tablets in drinking water before taking the dose, as described under 'Instructions for taking [MA154 trade name] tablets', below.

Take the first dose immediately when your health care provider has diagnosed malaria.

Take the second dose 8 hours after the first dose.

Then take the remaining doses 12 hours apart.

If you vomit within 1 hour of taking the medication, you should repeat the dose.

You should always take [MA154 trade name] exactly as described by the health care provider and it is important to complete the course of tablets that is recommended. Check with your health care provider if you are not sure.

Instructions for taking [MA154 trade name] tablets

[MA154 trade name] should be taken with food or a milky drink. If you are unable to tolerate food, [MA154 trade name] should still be taken, but your body may take up less of the medicine.

Each tablet should be dispersed in a minimum of 10 mL water; the maximum volume of water recommended for dispersion of a dose is 50 mL.

1. Look up the patient's weight above.
2. Then look for the number of tablets that will be required.
3. Place the required volume of water in a small, clean cup or bowl and add the required number of tablets.
4. Stir gently until the tablets disperse.
5. Drink the entire medicine mixture immediately.
6. Rinse the cup with a little additional water and drink this water.

If you take more [MA154 trade name] than you should

If you take too many tablets, immediately contact your health care provider or the nearest hospital emergency department for further advice. Bring the medicine box with you, so that you can easily describe what you have taken.

If you forget to take [MA154 trade name]

Try to make sure that you do not miss any dose. However, if you do forget a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you realise that you have forgotten it. Then take the next dose after the prescribed interval. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet. **Make sure you take all six doses of this regimen.**

If you stop taking [MA154 trade name]

You should keep taking the medicine for as long as your health care provider has ordered, even if you are feeling better. If you stop the medicine too soon, the infection may not be completely cured.

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

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, [MA154 trade name] can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. It is important that you inform the health care provider of any change in your health.

Most of the side effects are mild to moderate and generally disappear after a few days to a few weeks after treatment.

However, some side effects could be serious and need immediate medical attention. Allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions may occur rarely, in up to 1 person in 1000.

- If you get a rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat with difficulty in swallowing or breathing, **tell your health care provider straight away.**

Of the other side effects that may occur with [MA154 trade name], the *most commonly* reported side effects (in more than 1 in every 10 patients treated) include

- fast heart beat (palpitations)
- headache
- dizziness
- cough
- nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting (being sick)
- abdominal (belly) pain
- decreased appetite
- joint pain
- muscle pain
- general weakness or tiredness
- sleep disorders.

Other *common* side effects (reported in more than 1 in every 100 patients treated) include

- changes in the electrical activity of the heart (QT-prolongation) seen in tests
- abnormal blood tests for liver function
- rash
- itching
- diarrhoea
- abnormal walking*
- needles and pins (paraesthesia) or numbness of the hands and feet*
- involuntary, rhythmic, muscular contractions (clonus)
- insomnia.

Uncommon side effects (greater than 1 in every 1000 patients treated but less than 1 in 100) include

- clumsiness or difficulty in making movements smoothly (ataxia)*
- decreased skin sensitivity*
- sleepiness
- nettle rash (urticaria).

*These side effects have been reported in adults and adolescents above 12 years of age.

There have also been some reports of anaemia (low numbers of red blood cells) due to breakdown of the red blood cells, which has been reported up to a few weeks after treatment has been stopped (delayed haemolytic anaemia). It is not clear how often this may occur.

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 as soon as possible.

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 [MA154 trade name]

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

Do not store above 30°C. Store tablets in the blisters in the provided carton.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date stated on the blister or the carton after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not use this medicine if you notice description of the visible signs of deterioration that it is different from the description below.

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 [MA154 trade name] contains

- The active ingredients are 40 mg artemether and 240 mg lumefantrine.
- The other ingredients of [MA154 trade name] are croscarmellose sodium, microcrystalline cellulose, polysorbate, hypromellose, colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, orange flavour, sucralose, talc and magnesium stearate.

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

What [MA154 trade name] looks like and contents of the pack

[MA154 trade name] is a yellow, round tablet, plain on both sides with bevelled edges.

The tablets are provided in a clear PVC/PVDC-Alu blister pack.

Each blister contains 6 tablets. Such 30 blisters are packed in a box. 70 boxes are packed in a carton. Such 1 blister is also packed in a box. 880 boxes are packed in a carton.

Supplier and Manufacturer

Supplier

Name Guilin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd
No. 43, Qilidian Road
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Manufacturer

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

This leaflet was last revised in March 2023

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website: <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/medicines>