

Hydroxychloroquine

What is Hydroxychloroquine?

- Also known as a Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug (DMARDs)
- It helps reduce:
 - Joint pain
 - Swelling
 - Stiffness
 - Long-term joint damage

Your Hydroxychloroquine prescription:

- Your Hydroxychloroquine tablets will be prescribed by your GP
- Please take Hydroxychloroquine once daily as prescribed
- Hydroxychloroquine comes in 200-400mg, your doctor will advise you on a safe dose to take according to your weight
- Please allow 12 weeks for Hydroxychloroquine to take effect

Monitoring while on Hydroxychloroquine:

- You will need to have monitoring of your eyes
- There is a small risk that Hydroxychloroquine can damage a part of the inside of the eye called the retina
- This increases with long term use and higher dosage
- We would advise to arrange an initial eye test then once yearly
- If you have been taking the drug for more than five years to get an OCT scan and this is a more in depth scan where they look at the back of the eye

Side Effects:

Most people tolerate Hydroxychloroquine, but side effects can occur in a small number of patients.

- If you develop any persistent side effects please contact the nurse advice line.

More information:

- **Arthritis UK** – [Hydroxychloroquine](#)
- Patient information leaflet included with your medication

Infections/Antibiotics:

- You do not require to stop your medication should you have any infection or require antibiotics.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding:

- Current guidelines state that hydroxychloroquine can be taken when pregnant and breastfeeding.
- It's often best to continue with medication to prevent flare-up of your condition.