

Malarone (Atovaquone/Proguanil)

What is Malarone?

Malarone is an anti-malarial drug used for both prevention and treatment of malaria. Atovaquone/Proguanil is the trade name for Malarone.

Why should I take Malarone?

In most parts of South America, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, malaria has become resistant to Chloroquine, a common anti-malarial drug. Malarone may be prescribed for these regions. Anti-malarial medications taken correctly can help protect you from developing malaria.

How do I take Malarone?

The adult dosing for Malarone is one (250mg/100mg) tablet taken once a day, one to two days before leaving for the malaria area, while in malaria area, and for seven days after leaving malaria area. Malarone should be stored between 15 to 30 degrees C in its original blister pack. Malarone should be taken with food and/or a milky drink at breakfast or lunch, at the same time each day.

Body weight (pounds)	Body weight (kilograms)	Atovaquone/Proguanil HCl Total Daily Dose	Dosage regimen
24-45	11-20	62.5 mg/25 mg	1 pediatric tablet daily
46-67	21-30	125 mg/50 mg	2 pediatric tablets daily
68-88	31-40	187.5 mg/75 mg	3 pediatric tablets daily
> 88 pounds	> 40	250 mg/100 mg	1 adult tablet daily

What if I miss a dose?

Take it as soon as you realize that you have forgotten, and then take each remaining dose according to the schedule that you first started with, counting from the day that you took the missed dose. Do not take more than one tablet in any one day unless you vomit within one hour of taking the tablet. If this happens, take another and continue as before.

Do not take Malarone if:

- you are pregnant or nursing, or may become pregnant while taking Malarone,
- have a history of epilepsy
- have severe liver or kidney disease.

Most side effects are mild and do not last very long.

Possible side effects include:

- Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhea, swelling, redness, pain in the mouth, mouth ulcers, headache, tiredness, difficulty sleeping, increased body temperature, hair loss, fever, cough
- In rare cases, Malarone may lower red blood cell and white blood cell counts.

The following medications may change how well Malarone works.

- Rifampin
- Rifabutin
- Tetracycline
- Metaclopramide (Mexeran)

If you are taking any of these medications, please inform your health care practitioner.

What if I need a blood test?

Malarone may cause changes to the body's normal blood levels of certain cells or chemicals, or lead to other blood abnormalities. It is important to relay this information to anyone taking blood for tests, as it may affect the results.

Other important protection against malaria:

- Avoid going outdoors from dusk to dawn
- Wear light coloured clothing that covers the body
- Use an insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin
- Sleep under mosquito netting

Anti-malarial drugs do not guarantee protection. Think of malaria whenever you develop fever or flu-like illness within a year after leaving a malarial area, and seek medical attention immediately.