2. What you need to know before you take Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate

Do not take Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate and ask your doctor if:

- You are allergic to Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate or other similar medicines such as Quinidine and Quinine
- Any of the ingredients of Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate (listed in Section 6) cause an allergic reaction or a rash, swelling or breathing problems, swelling of your face, throat or tongue.
- You have an eye problem which affects the retina, this includes the eye tissue that gets damaged when you get a change in your eye color or your eye's vision.
- You are pregnant, might become pregnant or think you may be pregnant (see Pregnancy and breast-feeding below).

Do not take this medicine if any of the above applies to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate if:

- You have liver or kidney problems.
- You have serious stomach or gut problems.
- You have heart problems.
- You have any problems with your blood. You may need to get tests to check this.
- You have any problems with your nervous system or brain.
- You have had nausea or diarrhea in the past.

Before treatment with Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate:

- Before you take the medicine you should have your eyes examined.
- This treatment should be repeated at least every 12 months while taking Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate if you are over 65, and in a high dose (700 milligrams a day) or have kidney problems or the examination should be performed more often.
- Hydroxychloroquine can cause swelling of the blood vessels. Please ask your doctor to check your eye, skin and organs for signs of blood vessel blockage. A check of the blood vessels blockage may be necessary.

If you are not sure if any of the above applies to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate.

Children and adolescents
This medicine is not suitable for children and adolescents who weigh less than 45 kg (around 100 lb).

Other medicines and Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. This includes medicines you can buy without a prescription, including herbal medicines. This is because Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate can affect the way some other medicines work. Also some medicines can affect the way Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate works.

In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:

The following medicines may increase the chance of you getting side effects when taken with Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate:

- Some antibiotics used for infections (such as Gentamicin, Neomycin or Tetracyclines)
- Cimetidine - used for stomach ulcers
- Neurontin and Prezista - used for herpes weakness (HIV/AIDS patients)
- Medicines that may affect your skin, e.g. Vichystheme, Hydroxyzine - used for anxiety
- Antihistaemines - used for hay fever
- Propranolol - used for heart problems
- Anticoagulants - used for blood thinning

The following medicines may increase the way Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate works or Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate may affect the way some of these medicines work:

- Probenecid - used for heart problems.
- Medicines for diabetes (such as insulin or Metformin)
- Ataride - used for heartburn or indigestion. You should have a gap of at least 4 hours between taking these medicines and Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate.
- Nalidixic acid - used for kidney infection
- Colchicine - used for organ transplantation to help prevent rejection
- Propranolol - used for heart problems
- Aplidaline - used to treat a rare condition called Fabry's disease

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Do not take Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate if:

- You are pregnant, might become pregnant or think you may be pregnant.
- You are breast-feeding or planning to breastfeed. This is because small amounts may pass into mother's milk.

Driving and using machines
You may get side effects while taking this medicine. If this happens, do not drive or use any tools or machines and inform your doctor straight away.

3. How to take Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Taking this medicine:
This medicine may be mouthwash. Swallow the tablets whole with a mouthful of water. Do not crush or chew your tablets.

If you are taking this medicine for skin problems that are sensitive to sunlight, only take Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate during periods of very high exposure in sunlight.

This drink will not affect the dose depending on your body weight. If you feel side effects of your medicine too weak or strong, do not change the dose yourself. Ask your doctor.

If you have been taking this medicine for inflammatory arthritis for a long time (more than 6 months) and you do not feel ill; it is helping you, your doctor thinks that the treatment may need to be stopped.

The recommended dose for adults, including the elderly, is:

- One or two tablets each day.

Use in children and adolescents

- One tablet each day.

This medicine is only suitable for children who weigh more than 45 kg (around 100 lb).

It may cause complications before you start the benefit of taking Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate.

If you take more Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate than you should:

- Take the medicine as a hospital (usually in the department straight away. Take the medicine pack with you."

This is the doctor's office in the case you have taken. The following effects may happen: nausea, problems with your sight (fast blood pressure, dizziness, etc.), heart problems, followed by sudden onset breathing problems and possibly heart attack.