**Information specific to Malarone tablets when used to prevent malaria.**

Malarone contains two medicines - atovaquone and proguanil hydrochloride. It is used to prevent or treat certain types of malaria. It works by killing the parasites that cause malaria. It is used to prevent malaria in people who are in areas where there is an increased risk of getting malaria.

Other information about Malarone:

* This medicine should only be used when you are travelling to an area where malaria is present. You must take it each day starting one or two days before you start travelling and each day while you are in the area where malaria is present. You must also take it for seven days after you leave the area. If you will need to take Malarone for longer than 84 days in total (12 weeks), this medicine may not be appropriate for you

If you feel that the medicine is making you unwell or you do not think it is working, then talk to your supervisor or medical professional.

**Who should not take Malarone oral?**

Check with your physician before taking Malarone if you have any of the following:

Liver Problems, Severe Liver Disease, Malabsorption, Serious Kidney Problems, Throwing Up, High Blood Sugar, Chronic Diarrhea, Anemia from Pyruvate Kinase and G6PD Deficiencies

Malarone is not recommended if you:

* are allergic or sensitive to or have had a reaction to any of the ingredients in the medicine
* are vomiting
* have diarrhea
* have kidney or liver problems

As part of the process of assessing suitability to take this medicine a prescriber may also arrange tests:

* to check that this medicine is having the desired effect
* to check that this medicine is not having any undesired effects

Over time it is possible that Malarone can become unsuitable for some people, or they may become unsuitable for it.

**Alcohol**

* There are no known interactions between alcohol and Malarone

**Diet**

* There are no specific foods that you must exclude from your diet when taking Malarone

**Driving and operating machinery**

* This medicine could affect your ability to drive or operate machinery

You should see how this medicine affects you before you judge whether you are safe to drive or operate machinery. If you are in any doubt about whether you should drive or operate machinery, talk to your prescriber.

**Family planning and pregnancy**

* You should only take Malarone during pregnancy if your doctor thinks that you need it

You need to discuss your specific circumstances with your doctor to weigh up the overall risks and benefits of taking this medicine. You and your doctor can make a decision about whether you are going to take this medicine during pregnancy. If the decision is that you should not have Malarone, then you should discuss whether there is an alternative medicine that you could take during pregnancy.

**Taking other medicines**

If you are taking more than one medicine they may interact with each other. At times your prescriber may decide to use medicines that interact if it is believed that the benefits of taking the medicines together outweigh the risks. In such cases, it may be necessary to alter your dose or monitor you more closely.

The following medicines may interact with Malarone:

Artemisinin carbamazepine efavirenz etoposide

Fluvoxamine metoclopramide moclobemide rifabutin

Rifampicin tetracycline warfarin

The following types of medicine may interact with Malarone:

* coumarin anticoagulants (Coumadin, Sintrom, nicoumalone, warfarin)
* cytochrome P450 enzyme inducers
* cytochrome P450 enzyme inhibitors
* medicines that are metabolised by the cytochrome P450 system
* oral anticoagulants
* protease inhibitors

Possible Side Effects

Everyone's reaction to a medicine is different. It is difficult to predict which side-effects you will have from taking a particular medicine, or whether you will have any side-effects at all. The important thing is to tell your prescriber or pharmacist if you are having problems with your medicine.

Very common: More than 1 in 10 people who take Malarone

* diarrhea - seek medical advice if you develop diarrhea
* headaches
* nausea
* stomach pain
* vomiting - if you vomit within one hour of taking Malarone, you should take your dose again and then continue taking your tablets as before. If this happens you should contact your prescriber for further advice

Common: More than 1 in 100 people who take Malarone

* allergic reactions including anaphylactic reactions - **seek immediate medical advice if you develop allergic reactions**

Other reactions include:

abnormal laboratory test results, blood problems, cough, depression difficulty sleeping, feeling dizzy, fever

itching, loss of appetite, metabolic problems, skin rash or rashes, strange dreams

Uncommon: More than 1 in 1000 people who take Malarone

feeling anxious, hair loss, inflammation of the mouth, palpitations, urticaria (a rash of round, itchy welts on the skin)

Rare: More than 1 in 10,000 people who take Malarone

* hallucinations

The frequency of these side-effects is unknown

* angioedema
* blisters
* crying
* erythema multiforme
* faster heart rate
* gastrointestinal problems
* liver problems
* mouth ulcers
* nightmares
* panic attacks
* photosensitivity skin reaction
* psychosis or psychotic-like behaviour
* seizures
* skin exfoliation
* Stevens-Johnson syndrome
* vasculitis

If you feel unwell or if you have concerns about a side-effect, you will need to seek advice. If you feel very ill, get medical help straight away.