

Medicines for the Prevention of Malaria While Traveling Atovaquone-Proguanil (Malarone™)

What is atovaquone-proguanil?

Atovaquone-proguanil is a combination of two drugs, atovaquone and proguanil, in a single tablet. It is available in the United States by prescription only. It is sold under the brand name Malarone and it is also sold as a generic medicine in two sizes:

Adult tablet: 250mg atovaquone plus 100mg proguanil

Pediatric tablet: 62.5mg atovaquone plus 25mg proguanil

Atovaquone-proguanil can be prescribed for either prevention or treatment of malaria.

This fact sheet provides information about its use for the prevention of malaria infection associated with travel.



Who can take atovaquone-proguanil?

Atovaquone-proguanil can be prescribed to adults and children who weigh at least 11 pounds (5 kg).

Who should not take atovaquone-proguanil?

Pregnant women, women who are nursing infants less than 5kg, or infants who weigh less than 5kg should not take atovaquone-proguanil. Also, people with severe kidney disease should not take atovaquone-proguanil.

How should I take atovaquone-proguanil?

Both adults and children should take one dose of atovaquone-proguanil per day starting a day or two before traveling to the area where malaria transmission occurs. They should take one dose per day while there, and for 7 consecutive days after leaving. In rare instances (such as if you switched to atovaquone-proguanil from another malaria medicine) your doctor may instruct you to take it for a longer period of time.

The daily dosage for adults is a single adult tablet.

The daily dosage for children depends on their weight. The list below shows the daily dose for children based on their weight:

5–8 kg children should take a ½ pediatric tablet daily,

> 8–10 kg: ¾ pediatric tablet daily

> 10–20 kg: 1 pediatric tablet daily

> 20–30 kg: 2 pediatric tablets daily

> 30–40 kg: 3 pediatric tablets daily

> 40 kg: 1 adult tablet daily

Atovaquone-proguanil should be taken with food or a milky drink.

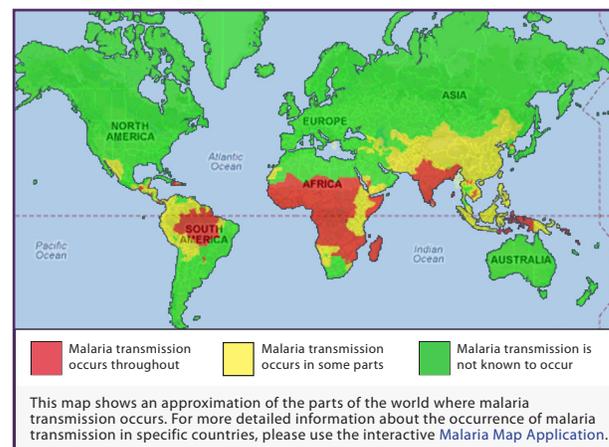
Where can I buy atovaquone-proguanil?

Antimalarial drugs are available in the United States by prescription only. Medicines should be obtained at a pharmacy before travel rather than in the destination country. Buying medications abroad has its risks: the drugs could be of poor quality, contaminated, or counterfeit and not protect you against malaria.

In what parts of the world can atovaquone-proguanil be used for prevention of malaria in travelers?

Currently atovaquone-proguanil can be taken in any part of the world where malaria occurs.

CDC keeps track of all the places in the world where malaria transmission occurs and the malaria drugs that are recommended for use in each place. This information can be found using the malaria map on the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/map/index.html>.



Atovaquone-Proguanil (Malarone™)

Malaria is a serious disease that can cause death if not treated right away. It is caused by a parasite that can infect a certain type of mosquito which feeds on humans.

About 1,500 cases of malaria are diagnosed in the United States each year almost all in travelers to parts of the world where malaria occurs.

Will atovaquone-proguanil interact with my other medications?

Some other drugs can interact with atovaquone-proguanil and cause you problems. Your doctor is responsible for evaluating the other medicines you are taking to ensure that there are no interactions between them and atovaquone-proguanil. In some instances, medicines can be adjusted to minimize the interaction. You can also ask your pharmacist to check for drug interactions.

For example, people taking the common blood-thinning medicine called Coumadin may be at an increased risk for bleeding if they take atovaquone-proguanil. The Coumadin dose can be adjusted allowing you to take both medicines safely.

What are the potential side effects of atovaquone-proguanil?

Atovaquone-proguanil is well tolerated, and side effects are rare. The most common adverse reactions reported are stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, and headache. These side effects can often be lessened by taking atovaquone-proguanil with food.

All medicines may have some side effects. Minor side effects such as nausea, occasional vomiting, or diarrhea usually do not require stopping the antimalarial drug. If you cannot tolerate your antimalarial drug, see your health care provider; other antimalarial drugs are available.

Other considerations

- Good for last-minute travelers because the drug is started 1-2 days before traveling to an area where malaria transmission occurs
- Good choice for shorter trips because you only have to take the medicine for 7 days after traveling rather than 4 weeks
- Tends to be more expensive than some of the other options (especially for trips of long duration)

How long is it safe to use atovaquone-proguanil?

CDC has no limits on the use of atovaquone-proguanil for the prevention of malaria. There is no evidence of harm when the drug has been used for extended periods of time.

For more information:

Check out the CDC malaria website at www.cdc.gov/malaria

Health-care providers needing assistance with diagnosis or management of suspected cases of malaria should call the CDC Malaria Hotline: 770-488-7788 or 855-856-4713 toll-free (M-F, 9am-5pm, eastern time).

Emergency consultation after hours, call: 770-488-7100 and request to speak with a CDC Malaria Branch clinician.

Prevent Malaria

- **Take an antimalarial drug.**
- **Prevent mosquito bites.**
- **If you get sick, immediately seek professional medical care.**