**Drug Information Sheet - antimalarials**

**Antimalarial worksheet**

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<th>Baseline</th>
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*more of an issue with chloroquine than other antimalarials*
Drug Information Sheet - antimalarials

Questionnaire for antimalarials: chloroquine (Aralen®), hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®), and quinacrine (Mepacrine®)

1. Have you had any type of eye disease?    Yes □  No □
   If yes, what type?____________________

2. Do you have a history of anemia or a low blood count?    Yes □  No □  DK* □

3. Do you currently drink alcohol (beer, wine, or liquor)?    Yes □  No □
   If yes, how much per day?____________________

4. Did you drink alcohol (beer, wine or liquor) in the past?    Yes □  No □
   If yes, how much per day?____________________

5. Do you have a history of hepatitis, cirrhosis or other liver diseases (e.g., jaundice)?    Yes □  No □  DK □

6. Do you have a history of porphyria (sun sensitivity; fragile skin or blisters on the backs of the hands)?    Yes □  No □  DK □

7. Do you have a personal or family history of psoriasis?    Yes □  No □  DK □

8. Do you have a history of kidney disease?    Yes □  No □  DK □

9. Do you have muscle or nerve disease?    Yes □  No □  DK □

10. Is there any chance you are pregnant?    Yes □  No □

11. Are you nursing a baby?    Yes □  No □

12. Do you have any plans to have a child in the near future?    Yes □  No □

13. Are you on any of the following medications?
   A. Mefloquine (Lariam®)    Yes □  No □
   B. Cimetidine (Tagamet®)    Yes □  No □
   C. Digoxin (Lanoxin®)      Yes □  No □

14. Do you have G6PD deficiency?    Yes □  No □  DK □

*DK = Don’t know
Patient information- potential side effects of antimalarials

There are three major antimalarials:
- hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®)
- chloroquine (Aralen®)
- quinacrine (Mepacrine®)

1. Ocular: Damage to the retina can be a side effect of chloroquine more so than with hydroxychloroquine, but this side effect is unusual to rare if the total daily dose does not exceed:

   400mg per day of hydroxychloroquine in adults
   (or 6mg/kg/day in children x 4-6 weeks then 5mg/kg/day)

   or

   250 mg per day of chloroquine in adults
   (or 3.5mg/kg/day in children)

   It is important that you have a baseline eye examination performed as well as eye exams every six months. This exam should be done by an ophthalmologist (a medical doctor trained in eye disease).

   Another possible side effect is seeing “halos” around lights. This is not associated with damage to the retina or decreased visual acuity, and is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

2. Bone Marrow: Because of the small possibility of a decrease in your white cell count, before you start the medication, a baseline complete blood count (red cell count, white cell count, and platelet count) will be performed. For the first three months of therapy, complete blood counts will be done monthly and thereafter every 2 to 6 months.

3. Skin:
   a. The antimalarials can cause a blue/gray discoloration of the shins as well as the roof of the mouth, face and nails. Occasionally, the involvement is more widespread but is usually reversible.
   b. There are allergic reactions to these medications in a minority of patients. If this happens, the medication will be discontinued.
   c. Quinacrine can cause a yellow discoloration of the skin.
   d. Rarely, graying of the hair is seen with these medications.
   e. If you have psoriasis, there is a chance it will flare.
   f. If you have a disease called porphyria, it may flare.
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g. Blistering of the skin, sometimes severe, has rarely been reported.

4. Possible birth defects (eye): Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.

5. Gastrointestinal: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and cramps have been reported as has hepatitis (inflammation of the liver).

6. Muscles and nerves: Weakness of the arms and legs or the hands and feet is a rare side effect. Alert your physician if you develop these symptoms.

7. Central nervous system: irritability, headaches, dizziness, seizures and psychosis are very rare side effects.

8. Drug interactions: Chloroquine should not be given with mefloquine (Lariam) due to an increased risk of seizures.
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Physician checklist for antimalarials

A. increased risk of seizures with chloroquine use
B. increased levels of antimalarials
C. increased digoxin levels