How does this medication work?

Primaquine is an anti-infective agent, used with clindamycin in the treatment of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP).

How do I take this medication?

Your dosage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primaquine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____ tablet(s), 15 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Primaquine may be taken with or without food.

It is important to take primaquine regularly, at the same time each day, for the duration of your treatment, even if you feel better after a while.

Never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.

What if I forget to take a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible, and then continue with your regular schedule.

If it is nearly time for your next dose, however, just take that one according to the normal schedule. Do not double up doses.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Some people may experience gastrointestinal (digestive) effects such as diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. To help lessen these, take primaquine with food or an antacid (e.g., Maalox®, Diovol®). If the effects occur and persist, consult your pharmacist, doctor or dietician for ways to manage them.

This medication may cause dizziness. Find out how primaquine affects you before driving a vehicle or undertaking any activity that requires close attention.

Rarely, primaquine may cause hemolytic anemia or methemoglobinemia.

Anemia is a decrease in the number of red cells in the blood, and may result in breathlessness, fatigue or unusual weakness, loss of appetite and pale skin. Inform your doctor if you experience these effects.

Methemoglobinemia is a decrease in the ability of the red blood cells to transport oxygen. It may give a bluish tinge to your arms and legs. Inform your doctor if you experience these effects.

Your doctor will monitor your blood components by means of regular blood tests.

Can I take primaquine with my other medications?

When combined with primaquine, some medications may intensify the side effects on the blood.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medication, whether on prescription or not, any natural products or recreational drugs.
Can I drink alcohol if I’m on primaquine?

Avoid the excessive or regular consumption of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits) as these may interact with some of your medications.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want to have a drink. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) consumption should not be harmful to your health.

What if I’m pregnant or breast-feeding?

The effects of primaquine on pregnancy are not yet known. Its use in certain situations (fetuses with G-6-PD deficiency) may be dangerous.

If you are, or want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor about taking it.

As the virus can be transmitted via maternal milk, breast-feeding is not recommended in women who are HIV-positive.

Storage

Keep primaquine in a dry place, at room temperature (15 to 30°C or 59 to 86°F). Avoid humidity (bathrooms, etc.).

Place out of the sight and reach of children.

General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and the care team, so that your condition can be closely monitored.

If you have any questions about your medications or need help on how to schedule when to take them, please contact your doctor or pharmacist, who know your medication well.

Contact person: ______________________
Telephone: ______________________

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Primaquine - 2
http://www.jag.on.ca/HIV