PRESCRIBER INFORMATION

Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®)

DRUG-DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Antacids (separate by 4 hours)
- Antidiabetic agents, including insulin (risk of hypoglycemia)
- QT prolonging drugs*
  - antiarrhythmics, antipsychotics, antiemetics, fluroquinolones, macrolides, methadone, tricyclic antidepressants
- Drugs that cause:
  - retinal toxicity (tamoxifen, phenothiazines)
  - decreased seizure threshold
  - hemolytic reactions
- Increased drug levels:
  - Beta-blockers (metoprolol, propranolol, carvedilol)
  - Cyclosporine
  - Digoxin

*This is not a comprehensive list; review patients' medications for other agents that may prolong QT interval.

COUNSEL YOUR PATIENTS

- To immediately notify you for:
  - any eyesight changes, including blurry vision, trouble seeing, loss of vision, dark spots
  - signs of infection, unexplained bruising/bleeding, or new fatigue
- On signs/symptoms of hypoglycemia, and the potential to check blood sugar
- On the possibility of skin reactions, avoid prolonged sun exposure

MONITOR

- CBC
- Liver function tests
- Renal function

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Known hypersensitivity to hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine

WARNINGS/PRECAUTIONS

- Cardiovascular effects: cardiomyopathy, direct myocardial toxicity/exacerbation of underlying dysfunction, QT interval prolongation
  - Assess underlying cardiovascular function and use of other QT prolonging agents
- Retinal effects: retinal toxicity and potential irreversible retinopathy (more associated with high daily doses and long-term use (> 5 years)
  - Other risk factors include concurrent use of tamoxifen, renal impairment, macular disease
  - Recommended to not exceed a daily dosage of 5 mg/kg of actual body weight in most patients, discontinue and monitor closely if ocular toxicity is suspected
  - Assess for renal function, use of tamoxifen, baseline retinal issues, history of eyesight/eye changes with previous use of this (or similar) agent
- Hypoglycemia: has occurred with and without concomitant use of antidiabetic agents
  - Use with caution in patients with diabetes
- Dermatologic effects: may exacerbate or precipitate psoriasis, may cause skin reactions
  - Use with extreme caution in patients with psoriasis
- Hematologic effects: may exacerbate or precipitate porphyria; bone marrow suppression (monitor CBC with prolonged use)
  - Consider obtaining a G6PD test
- Neuromuscular effects: monitor for with long-term therapy; use with caution in patients with seizures disorders or myasthenia gravis
- Gastrointestinal disorders: use with caution
- Hepatic impairment: use with caution in those with hepatic impairment, alcoholism, other hepatotoxic medications
- Renal impairment: use with caution as dosage adjustment may be needed
  - Assess renal function at baseline (especially in patients at risk for ocular toxicity)
- Limited human data on use in pregnancy or breastfeeding

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

Nausea, decreased appetite, fatigue, headaches, dizziness, vision changes, ringing of the ears, vertigo or feeling off balance

INNOVATION COMPOUNDING