

[Home](#)

2. Mefloquine

# Mefloquine

**Generic name:** mefloquine [ *MEF-loe-kwin* ]**Brand name:** [Lariam](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet (250 mg)**Drug class:** [Antimalarial quinolines](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 4, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

## What is mefloquine?

Mefloquine is a medicine used to treat malaria, a disease caused by parasites. mefloquine works by interfering with the growth of parasites in the red blood cells of the human body.

Parasites that cause malaria typically enter the body through the bite of a mosquito. Malaria is common in areas such as Africa, South America, and Southern Asia.

Mefloquine is also used to prevent malaria.

Mefloquine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Mefloquine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Stop taking mefloquine and call your doctor right away if you any of these side effects:**

- sudden headache, ringing in your ears, dizziness, [loss of balance](#), or problems with coordination;
- severe anxiety, [depression](#);
- paranoia, hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not real);
- confusion, unusual behavior; or
- thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

**Mefloquine may cause serious side effects. Stop using mefloquine and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- seizure (convulsions);

- **increased blood pressure**--severe headache, blurred vision, chest pain, [shortness of breath](#), uneven heartbeats; or
- **liver problems**--nausea, upper stomach pain, itching, tired feeling, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

**Common side effects of mefloquine may include:**

- stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea;
- dizziness;
- [muscle pain](#);
- fever, chills; or
- mild skin rash.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Mefloquine side effects](#) (more detail)

## Related/similar drugs

### Plaquenil

Plaquenil is used to treat or prevent malaria and to treat the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[158 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

#### FEATURED

### Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Cleocin

Cleocin (clindamycin) is used to treat serious bacterial infections. Includes Cleocin side effects ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[17 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Malarone

Malarone (atovaquone and proguanil) is an antiprotozoal and antimalarial and is used to treat or ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.5 / 10

[44 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Oracea

Oracea is used to treat inflammation associated with rosacea in adults. Learn about side effects ...

### Reviews & ratings

8.3 / 10

[46 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Warnings

**Some people taking mefloquine have had sudden serious psychiatric or nerve problems**, some of which lasted long after they stopped taking mefloquine. These side effects can be permanent.

**Stop taking mefloquine and call your doctor right away if have any of these side effects:** headache, ringing in your ears, dizziness, loss of balance, problems with coordination, anxiety, depression, paranoia, hallucinations, or thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

You should not take mefloquine **to prevent** malaria if you have a recent history of depression, an [anxiety disorder](#), seizures, mental illness (such as [schizophrenia](#)), or [psychosis](#).

## Before taking this medicine

**Some people taking mefloquine have had sudden serious psychiatric or nerve problems.** Some of these effects have lasted for months to years after mefloquine treatment ended, and these side effects can be permanent. Talk to your doctor if you have concerns about taking mefloquine.

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to mefloquine or similar medications such as quinine or [quinidine](#).

You also should not use mefloquine **to prevent** malaria if you have a recent history of:

- depression;
- an anxiety disorder;
- seizures; or
- mental illness (such as schizophrenia) or psychosis.

However, your doctor may prescribe mefloquine **to treat** malaria even if you do have any of the conditions listed above.

To make sure mefloquine is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- [heart disease](#);
- [liver disease](#);
- epilepsy or other seizure disorder;
- diabetes;
- bleeding or blood clotting disorder;
- a history of mental disease; or
- if you take a blood thinner (warfarin, Coumadin, Jantoven).

FDA [pregnancy category](#) B. It is not known whether mefloquine will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while using this medication. Use effective [birth control](#) while you are using this medication and for at least 3 months after your treatment ends.

Mefloquine can pass into breast milk and may harm a nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

Mefloquine should not be used to **treat** malaria in a child younger than 6 months without a doctor's advice. Mefloquine should not be used to **prevent** malaria in a child who weighs less than 44 pounds.

## How should I take mefloquine?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take mefloquine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

It is important to use this medication regularly (before, during and after travel) to best prevent malaria. **If you stop using the medication early for any reason**, talk to your doctor about other forms of [malaria prevention](#).

Take mefloquine just after your main meal.

Take this medicine with a full glass (8 ounces) of water.

If you have trouble swallowing the mefloquine tablet, you may crush the tablet and mix it into a small glass of milk, water, or other beverage to make swallowing easier.

If you vomit within 30 minutes after taking mefloquine, **take another full dose**. If you vomit 30 to 60 minutes after taking the medicine, **take another half dose**. **If your vomiting continues, call your doctor**.

If you are taking this medicine to **prevent** malaria:

- Mefloquine is usually taken once per week to prevent malaria.
- Start taking the medicine 1 to 3 weeks before entering an area where malaria is common. Continue taking the medicine once weekly during your stay and for at least 4 weeks after you leave the area.
- Take your weekly dose on the same day each week.
- If you stop taking the medicine early for any reason, contact a healthcare professional about another form of malaria prevention.

If you are taking mefloquine to **treat** malaria:

- Take as directed by your doctor.

In addition to taking mefloquine, use protective clothing, insect repellents, and mosquito netting around your bed to further prevent mosquito bites that could cause malaria.

If you use this medication long-term, you may need frequent blood tests to check your liver function. Your vision may also need to be checked.

Contact your doctor as soon as possible if you have been exposed to malaria, or if you have fever or other symptoms of illness during or after a stay in an area where malaria is common.

No medication is 100% effective in treating or preventing malaria. For best results, keep using the medication as directed. Talk with your doctor if you have fever, vomiting, or diarrhea during your treatment.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Mefloquine dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since mefloquine is often used as a single dose, you may not be on a dosing schedule. If you are on a weekly schedule, use the missed dose as soon as you remember. Then take the next dose on your next usual dosing day. **Do not** use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

**Call your doctor for instructions if you forget to take the medicine within 1 week before your travel.**

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What should I avoid while taking mefloquine?

Do not take [halofantrine](#) or [ketoconazole](#) **while you are taking mefloquine and for at least 15 weeks after you stop taking it**. Serious, life-threatening side effects on your heart can occur if you take halofantrine before the mefloquine has cleared from your body.

Avoid taking [chloroquine](#), quinine, or quinidine while you are taking mefloquine.

Mefloquine can cause side effects that may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive, operate machinery, pilot an airplane, scuba dive, or do anything that requires you to be awake and alert.

## What other drugs will affect mefloquine?

Many drugs can interact with mefloquine. Not all possible interactions are listed here. Tell your doctor about all your medications and any you start or stop using during treatment with mefloquine, especially:

- heart or blood pressure medication;
- medicine to treat depression or mental illness;
- seizure medication;
- [tuberculosis](#) medication; or
- a "live" vaccine such as measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).

**This list is not complete and many other drugs can interact with mefloquine.** This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Give a list of all your medicines to any healthcare provider who treats you.

 [Mefloquine drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does mefloquine interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

Add

## More about mefloquine

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(27\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: antimalarial quinolines](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Lariam](#)

## Professional resources

- [Mefloquine monograph](#)
- [Mefloquine \(FDA\)](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Malaria](#)
- [Malaria Prevention](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 9.01.

### DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA

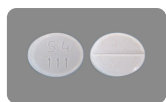
## User Reviews & Ratings

4.2 / 10

[27 Reviews](#)

## Images

Mefloquine 250 mg (54 111)



[View larger images](#)

## Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



### About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

### Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

### Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices

ADVERTISEMENT

Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

