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2. Lariam

Lariam

Generic name: [mefloquine](#) [*MEF-loe-kwin*]**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](#)

The Lariam brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

What is Lariam?

Lariam is a medicine used to treat malaria, a disease caused by parasites. Lariam 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.

Lariam is also used to prevent malaria.

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

Lariam 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 Lariam 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.

Lariam may cause serious side effects. Stop using Lariam 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 Lariam 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.

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

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Warnings

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

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

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

You also should not use Lariam **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 Lariam **to treat** malaria even if you do have any of the conditions listed above.

To make sure Lariam 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 Lariam 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.

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

How should I take Lariam?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take Lariam 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 Lariam just after your main meal.

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

If you have trouble swallowing the Lariam 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 Lariam, **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:

- Lariam 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 Lariam to **treat** malaria:

- Take as directed by your doctor.

In addition to taking Lariam, 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 Lariam dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since Lariam 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 Lariam?

Do not take [halofantrine](#) or [ketoconazole](#) while you are taking Lariam 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 this medicine has cleared from your body.

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

Lariam 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 Lariam?

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

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

Does Lariam interact with my other drugs?

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

Lariam

+

Enter a drug name

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Patient resources

- [Lariam advanced reading](#)

Professional resources

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

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

 Discontinued

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

[15 Reviews](#)

Images

[Lariam 250 mg \(LARIAM 250 ROCHE\)](#)

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