



**THE AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

**GUIDE TO
PRESCRIPTION.
AND OVER- . . .
THE-COUNTER
DRUGS**

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RANDOM HOUSE

QUINACRINE

Brand name. Atabrine

Used In the following combined preparations None

GENERAL INFORMATION

Quinacrine was first developed during World War II and widely used by US servicemen to prevent malaria. Later supplanted by more effective antimalarial drugs, quinacrine is now used to treat another protozoal infection, giardiasis. That disease is characterized by diarrhea, gas (flatulence), and abdominal pain. Quinacrine commonly causes nausea and vomiting, symptoms that

can be minimized by taking the drug with meals. The bright yellow color of quinacrine may lead to a similar discoloration of the skin or to a deep yellow colored urine, side effects which are harmless. Cases of mental derangement and skin or blood disorders have been reported following prolonged use of the drug. The treatment of giardiasis, however, involves only four to seven days of treatment.

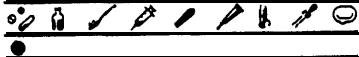
QUICK REFERENCE

Drug group Antiprotozoal drug (p.164)
Overdose danger rating Medium
Dependence rating Low
Prescription needed Yes
Available as generic No

INFORMATION FOR USERS

Your drug prescription is tailored for you. Do not alter dosage without checking with your physician.

How taken



Tablets.

Frequency and timing of doses
 3 x daily with meals for up to 7 days.

Dosage range
 Adults 300mg daily.
 Children Reduced dose necessary according to age and weight.

Onset of effect
 2 - 3 days.

Duration of action
 8 - 12 hours.

diet advice
 None.

Storage
 Keep in a closed container in a cool, dry place away from reach of children. Protect from light.

Missed dose
 Take as soon as you remember. If your next dose is due within 2 hours, take a single dose now and skip the next.

Stopping the drug
 Take the full course. Even if you feel better, the original infection may still be present and symptoms may recur if treatment is stopped too soon.

Exceeding the dose
 An occasional unintentional extra dose is unlikely to cause problems. Large overdoses may cause nausea, vomiting, and abdominal cramps. Notify your physician.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Be sure to tell your physician if:

- ▼ You have impaired liver or kidney function.
- ▼ You have glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency.
- ▼ You have psoriasis.
- ▼ You have had a mental disorder.
- ▼ You are taking other medications.



Pregnancy
 ▼ Not usually prescribed. May cause defects in the unborn baby. Treatment is usually postponed until after delivery.



Breast feeding
 ▼ No problems expected.



Infants and children
 ▼ Not usually prescribed. Reduced dose necessary.



Over 60
 ▼ Increased likelihood of adverse effects.



Driving and hazardous work
 ▼ Avoid such activities until you have learned how the drug affects you, because it can cause dizziness.



Alcohol
 ▼ Avoid. Taken with quinacrine, alcohol may cause flushing, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and headache.

POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Nausea and vomiting are the most common side effects of quinacrine. Headache, dizziness, and yellow discoloration of the skin

and urine may also occur. Serious adverse effects are rare when the drug is taken for short periods.

Symptom/effect	Frequency		Discuss with physician Only if in all severe cases	stop taking drug now	Call physician now
	Common	(Rare)			
Headache	●		■		
Dizziness	●		■		
Nausea/vomiting	●		■		
Yellow skin/urine	●		□		
Mental disturbance		●		■	▲
Rash		●		■	▲

INTERACTIONS

Primsquine Quinacrine reduces the breakdown of primaquine, and so increases its blood levels and the risk of adverse effects.

PROLONGED USE

Prolonged use of this drug may lead to skin rashes and rarely to serious blood disorders. Courses of longer than 7 days are not usually recommended.