

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Mal-Q Syrup 50mg/5mL

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Mal-Q Syrup is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Mal-Q Syrup
3. How to take Mal-Q Syrup
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Mal-Q Syrup
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Mal-Q Syrup is and what it is used for

Quinine is a cinchona alkaloid and a 4-methanoquinoline antimalarial that is rapid-acting blood schizontocide with activity against *Plasmodium falciparum*, *P. Vivax*, *P. ovale* and *P. Malariae*. It is active against the gametocytes of *P. malariae* and *P. vivax*, but it may interfere with lysosome function or nucleic acid synthesis in the malaria parasite. Since it has no activity against exoerythrocytic forms, quinine does not produce a radical cure in vivax or ovale malarias. Quinine is not generally used for malaria prophylaxis.

Quinine is also used to treat the protozoal infection babesiosis and for the relief of nocturnal leg cramps. Quinine has mild analgesic properties and is sometimes included in preparations used for symptomatic relief of the common cold and influenza.

2. What you need to know before you take Mal-Q Syrup.

Do not take Mal-Q Syrup

- Do not take Mal-Q Syrup if you are allergic to any of the ingredients listed in section 6 of this leaflet.
- Do not Take Quinine sulfate tablets if you:
 - Suffer from muscle weakness (myasthenia gravis)

- Have problems with your eyes or difficulty in seeing.
- Have been told you have a disorder affecting the red blood cells (haemolysis).

Which other ingredients in Mal-Q Syrup should I be aware of?

Bronopol (used as the preservative), Colour Amaranth, mixed fruit flavour, Essence water melon.

Liquid Glucose, Sucrose, if you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

Can I use Mal-Q Syrup if I am pregnant or breast-feeding?

Quinine should not be withheld during pregnancy, despite its alleged abortifacient properties at high dosage, since it safeguards the life of the mother.

Attention should be given to the considerable risk of hypoglycaemia in pregnant women with severe malaria.

Quinine crosses the placenta and is distributed into breast milk.

Mothers with glucose-6 phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficient babies should not breastfeed while taking Mal-Q Syrup.

Is it safe to drive or operate machinery after using Mal-Q Syrup?

Quinine may affect your vision and cause vertigo. Do not drive or operate machinery if you are taking Quinine.

Are there any foods or medicines that interact with Mal-Q Syrup?

Quinine + Artemether/Lumefantrine

No clinically significant pharmacokinetic interaction appears to occur between quinine and co-artemether. Quinine-induced QTc prolongation may be enhanced by artemether.

Antihistamines; Astemizole + Quinine

Quinine causes a marked but transient increase in plasma astemizole levels, which potentially increases the risk of cardiac arrhythmias. Three case reports confirm that this is a clinically important interaction.

Digoxin + Quinine

The digoxin levels of some but not all patients may rise by more than 60% if they are given quinine, and there is a report of digoxin toxicity in an elderly patient during concurrent use.

Coumarins + Quinine

Isolated reports describe increased anticoagulant effects in two women taking warfarin and a man taking phenprocoumon, which were attributed to the quinine content of tonic water. Limited evidence suggests that quinine does not alter the half-life of phenprocoumon.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Mal-Q Syrup.

3. How to take Mal-Q Syrup.

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Taking this medicine

A course of treatment with quinine for falciparum malaria usually lasts 7 days and uncomplicated infections treatment should preferably be given by the oral route. For children, a dose of 10mg of quinine salt per kg body-weight given every 8 hours for 7 days is recommended. Any quinine lost through vomiting within one hour of an oral dose should be replaced by additional doses.

If you take more Mal-Q Syrup than you should

Taking more than the recommended dose is unlikely to cause any problems. If you are concerned about an overdose you should consult your doctor or pharmacist, if possible you should take the packaging and this leaflet with you.

The below symptoms may occur of Mal-Q Syrup over dosage

- Difficulty in breathing.
- Changes in heart beat (abnormal heart beat) and heart function.
- Ringing in the ears, loss of hearing and headache.
- Changes in vision.

If you forget to take Mal-Q Syrup

If a dose is missed then it is safe to take it at any time before the next dose is due.

4. Possible side effects

All medicines can cause side effects but they are very unlikely with Mal-Q Syrup. Signs of mild to moderate cinchonism (tinnitus, headache, blurred vision, altered auditory acuity, nausea and diarrhoea) often supervene after the third day of treatment. These rarely, if ever, constitute grounds for withdrawal. However, if, as a result of non-compliance, quinine has to be withdrawn prematurely, tetracycline must be administered for a further 7 days.

Reporting of side effects.

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Mal-Q Syrup

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children

Store in a cool and dry place, not above 30°C. Keep out of the reach of children. Protect from direct sunlight.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

Contents of the pack and other information

What Mal-Q Syrup contains

Each 5ml contains Quinine Dihydrochloride Equivalent to Quinine 50mg

What Mal-Q Syrup looks like and contents of the pack

125 ml of Syrup filled in amber coloured glass bottles, sealed with 25 mm PP cap. 'MAL-Q SYRUP (125 ml)' label affixed to the bottle with a 10 ml transparent measuring cup.

Pink coloured flavoured syrup.

In addition to the above ingredients, it also contains: Bronopol, Sucrose (Sugar), Liquid Glucose, Sorbitol solution, Colour Amaranth, mixed fruit flavour, Essence water melon.

Manufactured by:

M&G PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

D, 446/1 Bannerman Road,
James Town, Accra, Ghana.

Email:info@mgpltd.com

TEL: 0302 666613

FAX: 0302 669085

This leaflet was last approved on: 06, July 2020