

Malaria

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Malaria is a serious, sometimes fatal, disease caused by a parasite. The disease is spread by the bite of a malaria-carrying mosquito. Malaria occurs in more than 100 countries and territories.

Large areas of Central and South America, Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Oceania are considered malaria-risk areas.

Malaria Symptoms

Symptoms include:

- fever
- chills and sweats
- headache
- nausea
- vomiting.

Symptoms usually begin 10 days to 4 weeks after being bitten by an infected mosquito. You may feel ill as early as 7 days or up to 1 year later.

If not treated right away, malaria may cause kidney failure, seizures, mental confusion, coma, and death.

Malaria Medicines

There are many medicines that can prevent and treat malaria infections.

- Talk with your health care provider before you travel to see which medicine is right for you.

- There is no guarantee that prevention medicine will work 100 percent of the time.
- Malaria can be severe. Get treated as soon as you start having symptoms.
- Contact your health care provider right away if you have signs of malaria. Tell your provider where you traveled.

Medicine general information

- Take your medicine in the morning with food.
- Contact your health care provider if you can't take the medicine you are given.

Medicine side effects

- All medicines have side effects. General side effects include:
 - nausea
 - vomiting
 - loose stools.
- Don't stop taking the medicine unless the side effects are more serious than the risk of malaria.

Medicine use and pregnancy

The risk of malaria to a pregnant woman and an unborn child is high. If you are pregnant:

- you may take chloroquine (Aralen[®]), mefloquine (Lariam[®]), and Malarone[™] (atovaquone and proguanil hydrochloride)
- do not take doxycycline.

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