

EMERGENCY TREATMENT FOR MALARIA



In certain circumstances, it may be advisable to give travellers emergency treatment for malaria.

Any fever appearing more than 7 days after arrival in an endemic zone should arouse suspicion of malaria and prompt the traveller to consult a doctor without delay. An attack of malaria can present itself in very different ways: it can range from a simple malaise with the impression of the onset of flu to the more classic form of an attack of intense fever lasting a few hours and recurring at regular intervals. The malaria attack may be accompanied by loss of consciousness, jaundice, digestive problems and many other symptoms.

WHEN SHOULD EMERGENCY TREATMENT BE USED?

Start emergency treatment if you have **a fever** and cannot see a doctor within 24 hours.

Then **consult a doctor** as soon as possible to find out whether your symptoms are caused by malaria or another illness, and to be sure that the treatment is the right one.

Emergency treatment can also be used when the diagnosis has been made, but the treatment available locally may be of inferior quality.

HOW TO USE IT

Artemether/lumefrantine (Riamet®):

- **Treatment** consists of **6 doses** spread over 3 days: at the time of diagnosis, 8 hours later, 24 hours later, and then every 12 hours (**i.e. after 36, 48 and 60 hours**).
- The **dose depends on weight**: for adults and children aged 12 and over and weighing at least 35 kg: 4 tablets per dose (i.e. 24 in total).
 - » For children weighing between 25 and 35 kg: 3 tablets per dose.
 - » For children weighing between 15 and 25 kg: 2 tablets per dose.
 - » For children weighing between 5 and 15 kg: 1 tablet per doseTake this medicine with food or a milk drink.

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Atovaquone/proguanil (e.g. Malarone®):

- Take **4 tablets at once** and repeat **after 24 hours** and again **after 48 hours** (12 tablets in total).
- **Always** take this medicine with **food** or **milk**.
- If you vomit within three hours of taking this medicine, you must take four more tablets.
- An adapted dose is required **for children < 40 kg** (children = 20 mg/kg/day above 10 kg in weight).
- If atovaquone/proguanil has been used for prevention, it cannot be used for treatment.

Be aware that medicines containing only artemisinin and plant extracts containing artemisinin are not sufficiently effective.