QINARSOL Tablets/Injection (Quinine sulfate + Quinine dihydrochloride)

Composition

**QINARSOL-300 Tablets**
Each tablet contains:
Quinine Sulfate .... 300 mg

**QINARSOL Injection 1 ml**
Each ml contains:
Quinine Dihydrochloride .... 300 mg/ml

**QINARSOL Injection 2 ml**
Each ml contains:
Quinine Dihydrochloride .......... 300 mg/ml

Dosage Form/s

Oral tablet and solution for intravenous (I.V.)/intramuscular (I.M.) administration

Description

Quinine, an alkaloid obtained from the bark of the cinchona tree, and which is also the levorotatory isomer of quinidine, is an antimalarial agent. Its chemical formula is 6'-methoxycinchonan-9-ol and its molecular formula is C\textsubscript{20}H\textsubscript{24}N\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{2}.H\textsubscript{2}O

Pharmacology

**Pharmacodynamics**

Quinine is a highly active blood schizonticide and suppresses the asexual cycle of development of malaria parasites in the erythrocytes. It has no action on the tissue forms of the malaria parasites and therefore will not prevent relapse of *Plasmodium vivax*, *P. ovale* or *P. malariae* infections.
Pharmacokinetics

Quinine is almost completely absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. Maximal blood concentrations are attained within one to three hours of ingestion. Most of the quinine is bound to plasma proteins. Quinine readily diffuses across the placenta. Quinine is extensively metabolized, mainly in the liver, and only a small proportion is excreted unchanged.

Indications

For the treatment of falciparum malaria.

Dosage And Administration

Adults

600mg (two tablets) every eight hours for seven days.

Children

10mg/kg bodyweight every eight hours for seven days.

Intravenous Administration

An initial dose of 16.4 mg (equivalent to 20 mg of dihydrochloride)/kg is infused over 4 hours followed by 8.2 mg (equivalent to 10 mg of dihydrochloride)/kg every 8 hours in adults and every 12 hours in children. The initial dose should be halved if the patient has received quinine, quinidine or mefloquine during the previous 12-24 hours. The maintenance dose should be reduced threefold in patients with impaired renal function.

Where facilities for I.V. infusion do not exist, quinine I.M. can be administered in the same dosage. The required dose should be divided equally between two sites, one in each anterior thigh. Whenever parenteral quinine is used, oral treatment should be resumed as soon as the patient is able to take it, and continued for the completion of the course.

Contraindications

Quinine is contraindicated in patients with the following:

Prolonged QT interval

One case of a fatal ventricular arrhythmia was reported in an elderly patient with a prolonged QT interval at baseline, who received quinine sulfate intravenously for *P. falciparum* malaria.

Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency
Hemolysis can occur in patients with G6PD deficiency receiving quinine.

**Known Hypersensitivity Reactions to Quinine or any of the Excipients in the Tablet**

These include, but are not limited to; the following:

- Thrombocytopenia
- Idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura (ITP) and Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP)
- Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)
- Blackwater fever (acute intravascular hemolysis, hemoglobinuria, and hemoglobinemia)

**Known Hypersensitivity to Mefloquine or Quinidine**

Cross-sensitivity to quinine has been documented.

**Myasthenia Gravis**

Quinine has neuromuscular blocking activity, and may exacerbate muscle weakness.

**Optic Neuritis**

Quinine may exacerbate active optic neuritis.

**Warnings And Precautions**

Before use for nocturnal leg cramps, the risks, which include significant adverse effects and interactions should be carefully considered relative to the potential benefits (Pls refer to drug interactions and undesirable effects). These risks are likely to be of particular concern in the elderly. Quinine should only be considered when cramps are very painful or frequent, when other treatable causes of cramp have been ruled out, and when non-pharmacological measures have not worked. Quinine sulphate should not be used for this indication during pregnancy.

Quinine may cause unpredictable serious and life-threatening thrombocytopenia, which is thought to be an idiosyncratic hypersensitivity reaction. Quinine should not be prescribed or administered to patients who have previously experienced any adverse reaction to quinine, including that in tonic water or other beverages. Patients should be instructed to stop treatment and consult a physician if signs of thrombocytopenia such as unexplained bruising or bleeding occur.

Quinine should be used with caution in patients with atrial fibrillation, heart block, other cardiac conduction defects, or other serious heart disease. Quinine may cause hypoprothrombinaemia and enhance the effects of anticoagulants.

Quinine has been implicated in precipitating black water fever when given for prolonged periods, although in some cases, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency may have been involved. Patients with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency may be at increased risk of haemolysis during quinine therapy and may develop acute haemolytic anaemia.

Owing to the presence of lactose, patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance,
the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

Administration of quinine may give rise to cinchonism, which is generally more severe in overdose, but may also occur in normal therapeutic doses. Patients should be warned not to exceed the prescribed dose, because of the possibility of serious, irreversible side effects in overdose. Treatment for night cramps should be stopped if symptoms of cinchonism emerge. Such symptoms include tinnitus, impaired hearing, headache; nausea and disturbed vision (pls refer to undesirable effects).

Hypersensitivity to quinine may also occur with symptoms of cinchonism together with urticaria, flushing, pruritis, rash, fever, angioedema and asthma.

### Drug Interactions

#### Effect of Other Drugs on Quinine

Quinine is metabolized via hepatic oxidative cytochrome P450 pathways, predominantly by CYP3A4. There is the potential for increased quinine toxicity with concurrent use of potent CYP3A4 inhibitors, which includeazole antifungal drugs and HIV protease inhibitors.

Sub-optimal quinine serum levels may result from concomitant use of CYP3A4 inducers, which include rifampicin, barbiturates, carbamazepine and phenytoin.

Care should be taken when quinine is used in combination with other CYP3A4 substrates, especially those causing prolongation of the QT interval.

#### Other Drug Interactions

**Amantadine**
Reduced renal clearance of amantadine with risk of amantadine toxicity (including headache, nausea, and dizziness).

**Analgesics**
Increased risk of ventricular arrhythmias with levacetylmethadol (avoid concomitant use).

**Anti-arrhythmics**
Plasma concentration of flecainide increased. Increased risk of ventricular arrhythmias with other drugs which prolong the QT interval, including amiodarone (avoid concomitant use). Concomitant use of quinidine may increase the possibility of cinchonism.

**Antibacterials**
Increased elimination of quinine reported with rifampicin. There is an increased risk of ventricular arrhythmias with moxifloxacin.

**Anticoagulants**
Quinine may cause hypoprothrombinaemia and enhance effects of anticoagulants.

**Anti-histamines**
Increased risk of ventricular arrhythmias with astemizole and terfenadine.
Other antimalarials
There may be an increased risk of side effects if quinine is used with other antimalarials, for example, chloroquine, halofantrine and mefloquine (increased risk of convulsions), although this should not prevent their use in severe cases. Quinine may increase the plasma concentration of mefloquine. Chloroquine and quinine appear to be antagonistic when given together for P falciparum malaria. There is an increased risk of ventricular arrhythmias with halofantrine.

Antipsychotics
Increased risk of ventricular arrhythmias with pimozide or thioridazine (avoid concomitant use).

Cardiac glycosides
Quinine may increase the plasma concentration of digoxin and it has been recommended that the maintenance dose of digoxin should be halved during concurrent therapy.

Ulcer healing drugs
Cimetidine inhibits metabolism (increased plasma quinine concentration).

Quinine can decrease plasma concentrations of ciclosporin.

Concurrent use with oral hypoglycemic may increase the risk of hypoglycemia.

Quinine enhances the neuromuscular effects of suxamethonium.

Renal Impairment
The effects of mild and moderate renal impairment on the safety and pharmacokinetics of quinine sulfate are not known. The clearance of quinine is decreased in patients with severe chronic renal failure. The dosage and dosing frequency should be reduced.

Hepatic Impairment
Adjustment of the recommended dose is not required in mild (Child-Pugh A) or moderate (Child-Pugh B) hepatic impairment, but patients should be monitored closely for adverse effects of quinine. Quinine should not be administered in patients with severe (Child-Pugh C) hepatic impairment.

Pregnancy
Large doses of quinine can induce abortion. Congenital malformations of the optic and auditory nerves have been reported after quinine has failed to induce abortion. Quinine sulphate should not be used during pregnancy unless the benefits outweigh the risks. However, pregnancy in a patient with malaria is not generally regarded as a contraindication to the use of quinine and it should not be withheld from pregnant women with life threatening malaria if other agents are inappropriate. Quinine sulphate should not be used during pregnancy to treat cramps.

Lactation
Quinine sulphate is excreted in breast milk, but no problems in humans have been reported. Infants at risk for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency should not be breast-fed until this disease can be ruled out. However, quinine sulphate should not be given to nursing mothers unless the
benefit outweighs the risks.

**Geriatric Use**

Clinical studies of quinine sulfate did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond to treatment differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients.

**Effects On Ability to Drive and use Machines**

Quinine may cause visual disturbances and vertigo, hence patients should be advised that if affected they should not drive or operate machinery.

**Undesirable Effects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MedDRA system organ class</th>
<th>Adverse Reaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</td>
<td>Thrombocytopenia, intravascular coagulation, hypoprothrombinaemia, haemoglobinuria, oliguria, haemolytic-uremic syndrome, pancytopenia, haemolysis, agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenic purpura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immune system disorders</td>
<td>Generalised hypersensitivity reactions including angioneurotic oedema and fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</td>
<td>Hypoglycaemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric disorders</td>
<td>Agitation, confusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous system disorders</td>
<td>Headache, vertigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye disorders</td>
<td>Blurred vision, defective colour perception, visual field constriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear and labyrinth disorders</td>
<td>Tinnitus, impaired hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac disorders</td>
<td>Atrioventricular conduction disturbances, hypotension, prolongation of the QT interval, widening of the QRS complex and T wave flattening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</td>
<td>Bronchospasm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal disorders</td>
<td>Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</td>
<td>Flushing, rash, urticaria, eczematous dermatitis, oedema, erythema, lichen planus, pruritis, photosensitivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</td>
<td>Muscle weakness, aggravation of myasthenia gravis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal and urinary disorders</td>
<td>Renal insufficiency, acute renal failure</td>
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</tbody>
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**Overdosage**

Acute intoxication can be seen after ingestion of doses of 4-12 g, but a dose of 8 g can prove lethal. The average fatal dose for an adult is about 8 g although deaths have been reported from as little as 1.5 g in an adult and 900 mg in a child.
**Symptoms:** Quinine overdosage may lead to serious side effects including irreversible visual loss, and can be fatal.

Symptoms include vomiting, tinnitus, deafness, headache, and visual disturbance.

Features of a significant overdose include convulsions, impairment of consciousness, respiratory depression, QT prolongation, ventricular arrhythmia, cardiogenic shock and renal failure. High doses of quinine are teratogenic and may cause miscarriage. Hypokalaemia and hypoglycaemia may also occur.

**Treatment:** Children (<5 years) who have ingested any amount should be referred to hospital. Older children and adults should be referred to hospital if more than 30 mg/kg of quinine base has been taken.

Each 300 mg tablet is equivalent to 248 mg quinine base.

Consider activated charcoal (50 g for adults; 1 g/kg for children) if the patient presents within 1 hour of ingestion of more than 30 mg/kg quinine base or any amount in a child under 5 years. Multiple dose activated charcoal will enhance quinine elimination.

Observe patients for at least 12 hours after ingestion. Monitor cardiac conduction and rhythm, serum electrolytes, blood glucose and visual acuity.

Other treatment is symptomatic to maintain blood pressure, respiration, renal function and to treat arrhythmia, convulsions, hypoglycaemia and acidosis.

**Storage And Handling Instructions**

Protect from light

**Packaging Information**

**QINARSOL 300 Tablets:** Strip pack of 10 tablets
**QINARSOL Injection 1 ml:** Pack of 10 ampoules
**QINARSOL Injection 2 ml:** Pack of 10 ampoules

*Last updated: Jan 2014
Last reviewed: April 2014*