

Essential drugs / Oral drugs

## ARTEMETHER/LUMEFANTRINE = AL oral

Prescription under medical supervision

### Therapeutic action

– Antimalarial

### Indications

- Treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria
- Treatment of uncomplicated malaria due to other Plasmodium species, when chloroquine cannot be used
- Completion treatment following parenteral therapy for severe malaria

### Forms and strengths

- Co-formulated tablets of artemether/lumefantrine, in blister packs, for a complete treatment for one individual
- There are 5 different blister packs corresponding to 4 different categories of weight:
  - 20 mg artemether/120 mg lumefantrine dispersible tablet, blister pack of 6 tablets
  - 20 mg artemether/120 mg lumefantrine dispersible tablet, blister pack of 12 tablets
  - 20 mg artemether/120 mg lumefantrine tablet, blister pack of 18 tablets
  - 20 mg artemether/120 mg lumefantrine tablet, blister pack of 24 tablets
  - 80 mg artemether/480 mg lumefantrine tablet, blister pack of 6 tablets

### Dosage and duration

– The treatment is administered 2 times daily for 3 days. On D1, the first dose is given at 0 hour and the second dose at 8-12 hours. Subsequent doses on D2 and D3 are given 2 times daily (morning and evening).

Weight	20/120 mg tablet			80/480 mg tablet		
	D1	D2	D3	D1	D2	D3
5 to < 15 kg	1 disp tab x 2	1 disp tab x 2	1 disp tab x 2	–	–	–
15 to < 25 kg	2 disp tab x 2	2 disp tab x 2	2 disp tab x 2	–	–	–
25 to < 35 kg	3 tab x 2	3 tab x 2	3 tab x 2	–	–	–

≥ 35 kg	4 tab x 2	4 tab x
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## Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- May cause: headache, dizziness and gastrointestinal disturbances.
- Administer with caution to patients taking drugs that prolong the QT interval: amiodarone, other antimalarials, antipsychotics, fluconazole, fluoroquinolones, hydroxyzine, macrolides, ondansetron, etc.
- If the patient vomits within 30 minutes after administration: re-administer the full dose. If the patient vomits between 30 minutes and 1 hour after administration, re-administer half of the dose.
- Pregnancy: no contra-indication
- Breast-feeding: no contra-indication

## Remarks

- Take with meals or a fat containing drink (e.g. milk).
  - Lumefantrine is also called co-artemether.
  - Storage: below 30 °C - ~~☒~~ - ~~☒~~
- Leave tablets in blisters until use. Once a tablet is removed from its blister, it must be administered immediately.*