

Information about Chloroquine and your eyes

What is Chloroquine for?

Chloroquine is better known as a treatment for malaria, but is no longer used much for this these days. Chloroquine is used to treat inflammatory diseases such as:

- SLE (Lupus)
- Dermatomyositis

It dampens down an overactive immune system, and is helpful for skin, joints, risk of clotting, reducing lupus flares, and even helps prevent diabetes.

How can Chloroquine affect the eye?

Chloroquine can affect your vision, although usually this is after using the treatment for more than 10 years. Although you may not notice any changes in your vision, it is important to have your eyes checked by an ophthalmologist. If any problems are detected, the chloroquine tablet will be stopped to prevent further eye damage.

Who needs an eye check?

The patients at the highest risk of eye damage from Chloroquine are those who have used the drug for a long time.

- ☐ >10 years on Chloroquine
- ☐ >65yrs old and more than 5 years chloroquine therapy
- ☐ Renal/Liver impairment
- ☐ co-prescribed Tamoxifen

How do I get more information?

The SA arthritis foundation is a charity that offers online and telephonic support at <https://www.arthritis.org.za/> and 0214252344.

Talk to your Groote Schuur rheumatology nurse or doctor at your next appointment or on 0214045313 (Thursdays) or 5394(Fridays) during clinic hours.