

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE

and the risk of congenital malformations

Background Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is commonly used to treat rheumatic diseases, including in pregnancy.



At doses of 200-400mg daily, the benefits of hydroxychloroquine in pregnant women with rheumatic disorders may still **outweigh the potential risk.**

WHAT'S NEW?

Recent evidence by Huybrechts *et al.* (2021)*:

- small increase in the relative risk of major congenital malformations linked with HCQ use during the first trimester of pregnancy.
- particularly at higher daily doses ($\geq 400\text{mg}$ daily)



*Huybrechts KF, Bateman BT, Zhu Y, et al. Hydroxychloroquine early in pregnancy and risk of birth defects. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2021;224(3):290.e1-290.e22. doi:10.1016/j.ajog.2020.09.007.

ADVICE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

- ☒ Weigh the benefits and risks of HCQ before use in pregnant women or women of childbearing potential.
- ☒ Always use the lowest effective dose.
- ☒ Advise patients to consult their doctor if they are planning to become pregnant or think they may be pregnant.
- ☒ Conduct close monitoring during pregnancy to ensure early detection of malformations.



REPORT

Report all adverse events suspected to be related to the use of hydroxychloroquine-containing products **to the NPRA.**

Any queries? Please send us an email at:

 fv@npra.gov.my

Or visit our website:

 www.npra.gov.my