

Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) Blood Test

What is the hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) blood test?

The hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) test is a laboratory blood test used to measure the level of the medication in your system.

Why is it important to check my hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) blood level?

Checking your hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) blood level helps ensure you are taking the correct dose for your condition. It also helps your doctors decide if your level is too high and they need to lower your dose.

How often do I need to have the hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) blood test?

We recommend that all adult patients (18 years and older) with lupus who have been taking hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) continuously for at least 6 months have their blood level checked at least once. How often you'll need follow-up testing depends on your condition, your kidney function, how long you've been taking this medication, your dose, and whether you are taking other medications that may interact with it. Your doctor will determine the appropriate testing schedule for your situation.

What does my result mean?

These are the hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) blood level range guidelines for lupus. Depending on which lab you use for your blood test, you may get the result as a measure of the whole blood level or the serum level. Michigan

Medicine gives results as the serum level. Ideally, your hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) blood level should be in the target (goal) range.

Result type	Very low range	Low range	Target range	High range
Serum (in ng/mL)	Less than 100	100-400	400-600	Over 600
Whole blood (in ng/mL)	Less than 200	200-750	750-1200	Over 1200

What happens if my level is too low or too high?

Your rheumatologist can help decide if your dose needs to be adjusted.

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