

Hydroxychloroquine blood levels predict clotting risk in patients with lupus

January 6 2021

The antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine is frequently prescribed to treat symptoms of the autoimmune disease lupus. In addition to decreasing disease flares, the drug can also prevent blood clots, which are a major problem in individuals with lupus. A new study in *Arthritis & Rheumatology* shows that monitoring patients' blood levels of hydroxychloroquine can predict their clotting risk.

In 739 patients, clotting occurred in 38 patients (5.1%). Average hydroxychloroquine blood levels were lower in patients who developed clots, and clotting rates were reduced by 12% for every 200 ng/mL increase in the most recent hydroxychloroquine blood level.

The finding may help clinicians determine the optimal dosing of hydroxychloroquine in [patients](#) with lupus.

"Hydroxychloroquine blood levels can be used to monitor adherence, benefits, and risks in lupus," said lead author Michelle Petri, MD, MPH, of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

More information: *Arthritis & Rheumatology*, [DOI: 10.1002/art.41621](https://doi.org/10.1002/art.41621)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Hydroxychloroquine blood levels predict clotting risk in patients with lupus (2021,

January 6) retrieved 11 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-01-hydroxychloroquine-blood-clotting-patients-lupus.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.