



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

## THE ROLE OF HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE SULFATE (PLAQUENIL) THERAPY IN EOSIVE ORAL LICHEN PLANUS

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**BACKGROUND:** Symptomatic oral lichen planus (OLP) has been palliated with a wide spectrum of topical and systemic therapies, but a few were evaluated in large series. Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate is reported to be effective in OLP. Erosive OLP may be especially painful and debilitating.

**AIM:** To evaluate the efficacy and safety of Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate in a erosive OLP.

**METHODS:** 20 consecutive patients with erosive, biopsy confirmed OLP, were studied. Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate 400mg/day was administered orally to all patients. Symptomatic improvement was evaluated by means of a visual analogue scale into 3 groups: no change, moderate to marked improvement, and complete remission.

**RESULTS:** Five (25%) patients had a complete remission, 12 (60%) patients showed moderate to marked improvement, 2 (10%) patients did not improve at all, and in one patient therapy was terminated after 1 month due to side effects. Response begun after 2 to 4 months of therapy. Therapy was terminated due to side effects in 3 patients: elevated kidney functions tests(after 1 month), visual field defects (after 8 months) and hyperpigmentation (after 24 months).

**CONCLUSIONS:** Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate may be effective and relatively safe in patients with erosive OLP. Therapy should be withdrawn if patients do not respond after 2-4 months and follow up should include routine laboratory tests and visual fields studies.

