

# PLAQUENIL RETINAL TOXICITY PATIENT GUIDELINE

**Background:** Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) can cause irreversible retinal toxicity resulting in reduced vision. Toxicity is associated with a long duration of Plaquenil use and cumulative dosage.

**Risk of Toxicity:** Retinal toxicity occurs in less than 0.5% of Plaquenil users in the first 5 years. After 5 years of use, or a cumulative dose of 1000g, retinal toxicity occurs in 1% of Plaquenil users and increases with continued use.

**Screening Schedule:** A baseline eye examination is advised for patients starting Plaquenil to serve as a reference point. Annual screening should begin after 5 years (or sooner if there are unusual risk factors)

## Recommended Baseline testing:

- Dilated fundus examination: Eye drops are used to dilate(enlarge) the pupils to allow a better view inside the eye. These drops will blur vision & increase light sensitivity for 2-4 hours and may affect driving
- Retinal photographs
- Automated visual field testing of the central 10 degrees.
- Spectral domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT): this is a high definition ultrasound of the retina.

## Recommended annual testing:

- Dilated fundus examination:
- Automated visual field testing of the central 10 degrees.
- Spectral domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT)

## Unusual Risk factors indicating annual testing before 5 years duration of Plaquenil treatment:

Cumulative dose >1000g

Daily dose >400mg/day

Age: Elderly

Systemic disease: kidney or liver dysfunction

Ocular disease: Retinal disease or maculopathy

## Manitoba Health Coverage:

Dilated fundus examinations and visual field testing can be billed to Manitoba Health.

Retinal Photographs and SD-OCT are not billable to Manitoba Health but are covered by most third party vision plans, current fees are \$45 and \$85 respectively.

## Booking appointments:

Appointments can be booked by calling Waverley Eye Care Centre at 487-1901. Appointments can be arranged within 2 weeks. Please ask for a Plaquenil Testing appointment.

Waverley Eye Care Centre

1-1200 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, MB, tel (204) 487-1901

Optometrists: Dr. Michael Nelson & Dr. Selena Friesen