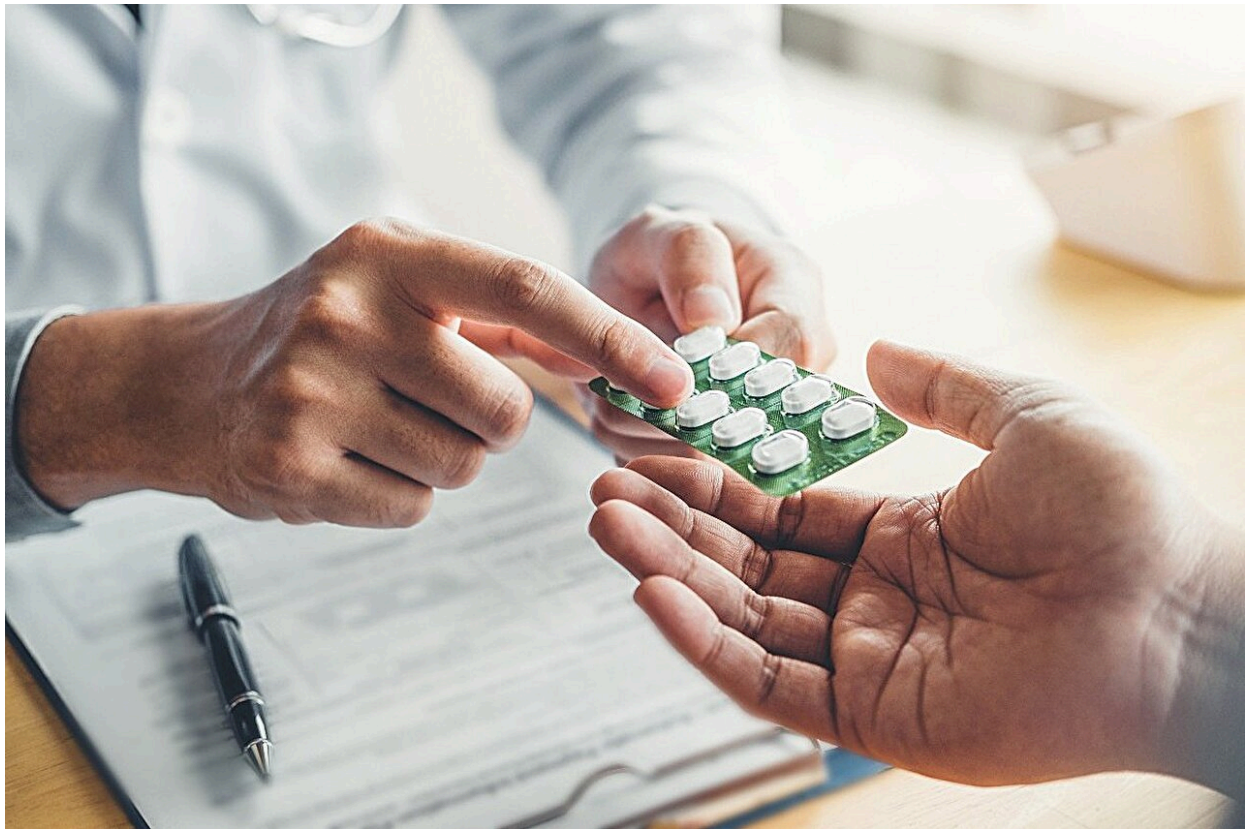


# Hydroxychloroquine safe, effective treatment for anogenital lichen sclerosis: Study

July 26 2024, by Lori Solomon

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Hydroxychloroquine appears to be a safe and effective treatment option for anogenital lichen sclerosis that only has mild adverse effects, according to a study [published](#) online July 19 in the *International Journal*

*of Dermatology.*

Christeebella O. Akpala, from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and colleagues analyzed the demographic characteristics, clinicopathological features, [treatment response](#), and outcomes of 70 patients diagnosed with either anogenital or extragenital [lichen](#) sclerosis who received hydroxychloroquine therapy (2018 to 2023).

The researchers found that 36% of patients had a [connective tissue disorder](#), prompting [hydroxychloroquine](#) therapy. Of the 30 patients treated solely for lichen sclerosis, 21 showed a response, and nine had no response. The overall response among those with anogenital lichen sclerosis was 84.6% compared to 50% in extragenital lichen sclerosis. Four months was the median time to initial response. Adverse effects were mostly mild and were seen in 14.3% of patients.

"Hydroxychloroquine demonstrates promise as a therapeutic option for anogenital lichen sclerosis because of its favorable response rates and low incidence of adverse effects," the authors write. "However, further investigations, including larger-scale or prospective studies, are imperative to ascertain its definitive efficacy."

**More information:** Christeebella O. Akpala et al, Treatment of lichen sclerosis with hydroxychloroquine: a Mayo Clinic experience, *International Journal of Dermatology* (2024). [DOI: 10.1111/ijd.17394](https://doi.org/10.1111/ijd.17394)

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