

# Ondansetron

Names	The generic drug name is ondansetron (on dan' se tron) Brand names include Zofran®, Zofran® ODT, and Zuplenz® There may be other names for this medication.
How is Ondansetron Given?	Ondansetron may be injected intravenously (into a vein) or intramuscularly (into a muscle). Ondansetron is also available to take by mouth as a tablet, a rapidly dissolving tablet, or a liquid. The first dose is usually given 30 minutes before starting chemotherapy, 1-2 hours before starting radiation therapy, or 1 hour before surgery.
What Is It Used For?	Ondansetron prevents nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or surgery.
How Does it Work?	Ondansetron is in a class of medications called 5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonists. It works by blocking the action of serotonin, a natural substance that may cause nausea and vomiting.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have had an allergic reaction to ondansetron or to alosetron (Lotronex®), dolasetron (Anzemet®), granisetron (Kytril®), or palonosetron (Aloxi®)</li><li>• or anyone in your family has ever had long QT syndrome or any other type of heart rhythm problem</li><li>• have or have ever had low magnesium or potassium, congestive heart failure (CHF), phenylketonuria (PKU), or liver disease</li><li>• are pregnant or breastfeeding</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.</b></p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diarrhea, constipation</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Weakness, tiredness, or dizziness</li></ul>

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Drink 2-3 quarts of fluids a day to help prevent constipation and dehydration, unless your doctor has told you to limit fluids.
- Check with your doctor before taking any medications for constipation, diarrhea, or headache.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

**Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have** signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations; or hives

Please let us know if you go to the emergency room or are admitted to the hospital.

**Call your doctor immediately if you have** blurred vision or loss of vision (may be sign of an overdose)

What Else Should I Know About Ondansetron?

- Store the medicine at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children and never share your medicine with anyone.
- Take exactly as directed – do not take more than your doctor prescribes.
- You may take the medicine with or without food.
- If you are using a **disintegrating tablet** (Zofran® ODT), do not remove it from the foil pack until you are ready to use it. With dry hands, peel back the foil covering the tablet. Do not push the tablet through the foil. Put the tablet on your tongue and allow it to dissolve in your mouth before swallowing.
- Measure the oral liquid with a marked measuring spoon or medicine cup
- If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose.
- If you would like more information about ondansetron, talk to your doctor or pharmacist