

Palonosetron

Names	The generic drug name is palonosetron (pal-on-o-se-tron). Aloxi™ is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Given?	Your medicine will be given intravenously (IV), which means it will be given into a vein, usually in your arm, wrist, hand or chest. It is usually given about 30 minutes before chemotherapy.
Why am I Receiving Palonosetron?	This drug is used to prevent nausea and vomiting that may occur within 24 hours after receiving chemotherapy or having surgery. It is also used to prevent delayed nausea and vomiting that may occur several days after receiving chemotherapy.
How Does it Work?	Palonosetron is a 5-HT3 receptor antagonist. 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">• are allergic to palonosetron, alosetron, dolasetron, granisetron, ondansetron/Zofran®, or other medications, foods, or substances• have low blood levels of potassium or magnesium• have a history of "Long QT syndrome" or problems with your heart rhythm• are taking apomorphine (Apokyn®)• are pregnant or breastfeeding <p>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.</p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache• Constipation and/or gas• Tiredness
How Can I Manage These Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache: rest in quiet, dimly lit room; put a cool cloth on your forehead and/or over your eyes; ask your doctor about medication• Constipation: Drink 2 - 3 quarts of fluid every 24 hours, unless your doctor tells you otherwise. Eating high fiber foods (whole grains, fruits, and vegetables) and exercising/walking may help. Your doctor may suggest taking a stool softener. Talk to your doctor before using laxative products.• Tiredness: balance periods of rest and work; try short, frequent naps; avoid

extreme temperatures; use your energy on important tasks (prioritize)

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- any sign of infection: fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation
- heart palpitations or feeling faint
- not have a bowel movement in 3 days despite following your doctor's recommendations, or if you have nausea or vomiting along with constipation
- agitation or confusion

Call 911 or go to the emergency department of Buffalo General or a Catholic Health System hospital if you have any sign of an allergic reaction: rash, hives, or severe skin rash; difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; swelling of your lips, throat, or inside of your mouth; dizziness or fainting. If you live outside the Buffalo area, go to the nearest hospital.

What Else Should I Know About Palonosetron?

- Aloxi may affect your heartbeat. This may cause serious problems, especially in people who: already have problems with their heartbeat (especially a condition called QT prolongation); are taking diuretics (water pills) or medicines to control a heart rhythm problem; have low blood levels of potassium or magnesium.
- Palonosetron may cause drowsiness or dizziness, which may be worse if you take it with alcohol or certain medicines. Do not drive or perform other tasks that require you to be alert until you know how you react to it.
- Serotonin syndrome is a possibly fatal syndrome that can be caused by palonosetron. Your risk may be greater if you take palonosetron with certain other medicines, such as some medications used to treat depression, pain, or migraines. Call your doctor immediately if you have: agitation; confusion; hallucinations; coma; fever; fast or irregular heartbeat; tremor; excessive sweating; and nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Tell your doctor/nurse if you have any pain, redness, or swelling around the injection site.
- Keep all your lab appointments.
- If you would like more information about palonosetron, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.