

RANITIDINE

Other names: Arrow-Ranitidine®, Peptisoothe®, Zantac Relief®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine

Ranitidine belongs to a group called Histamine receptor H₂ antagonists. It blocks histamine areas in the stomach that regulate the volume of gastric acid release, resulting in a decrease in stomach acid. This decrease helps to heal any ulceration of the stomach and small bowel.

Ranitidine can be used for the following conditions:

- to treat or prevent small bowel (duodenal) ulcers
- to treat stomach (gastric) ulcers
- to treat excessive secretion of gastric acid
- to treat reflux oesophagitis (reflux, heart burn)

When to take this medicine

Ranitidine is usually taken twice daily. If a single dose is prescribed then it is usually taken at bedtime.

If you miss a dose

Take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- a slow or irregular heartbeat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- skin rash, severe itching or hives
- confusion or mood changes
- muscle weakness and/or pain
- breast enlargement
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- signs of infection (fever or sore throat)

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- headache
- blurred vision
- dizziness
- tiredness
- unable to sleep
- gastrointestinal (stomach) upsets such as nausea, constipation, diarrhoea

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Avoid taking ranitidine with antacids or sucralfate at the same time. Space the dose of these medicines in relation to ranitidine by at least 2 hours.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.