

ONDANSETRON

Other names: Zofran®, Onrex®, Dr Reddy's Ondansetron®



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 medication

Ondansetron (ON-dan-set-ron) is a medicine that is used to prevent or reduce nausea or vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy. It can be given by injection or taken by mouth.

Take ondansetron exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Ondansetron may be taken with food or on an empty stomach with a glass of water.

When taken by mouth ondansetron is usually taken about 30 minutes before receiving chemotherapy. It may be continued after chemotherapy for a certain period of time. The exact dose and how often you take it will be determined by your doctor.

If you miss a dose or vomit within one hour of taking ondansetron, take it as soon as you can. Call your doctor (during office hours) to ask about when to take your next dose.

Store ondansetron tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture.

Other medication

Other drugs may interact with ondansetron. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new medicines.

Alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of ondansetron.

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*.

SIDE EFFECTS	WHAT TO DO
Headaches may occur. These are usually mild but may be severe.	Take paracetamol every 4-6 hours if needed up to a maximum of 4 g (8tablets) each day.
Constipation may be a problem. This is temporary and your bowel movements will return to normal a few days after you finish taking ondansetron.	To help constipation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Try to drink plenty of fluids (8 glasses a day).
Dry mouth occurs in a small number of patients.	Try sucking on boiled sweets or some ice chips.
Abnormal heart rhythm (QT prolongation) rarely occurs.	Minimise your risk of abnormal heart rhythm by always checking with your pharmacist and doctor about drug interactions when starting a new medication, herbal product or supplement.

Check with your doctor if any of the following continue or bother you:

- Uncontrolled nausea or vomiting.
- Severe headache.

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