

ONDANSETRON (Zofran)

EMSAC AUGUST 2026

ACTION: Anti-Emetic

- Selective antagonism of the serotonin 5-HT₃ receptor resulting in decreased nausea and vomiting

INDICATIONS:

- Nausea and Vomiting

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- History of hypersensitivity to similar drugs: Dolasetron (Anzemet), Granisetron (Kytril), or Palonosetron (Aloxi) or to ondansetron (Zofran).
- Taking Apomorphine (Apokyn, Ixense, Spontane, Uprima), an injectable drug for Parkinson's Disease, or rarely used for erectile dysfunction.
- Do not give oral tablet or solution to known phenylketonurics (contains phenylalanine).
- Patient has **known** prolonged QTc interval (**>440 > 500ms in males or greater than 460 ms in females**)

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

- Hypotension
- Syncope
- QT prolongation
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Anaphylaxis
- Flushing
- Rash

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

4 mg slow IVP/IM or 4mg tablet ODT (dissolved on the tongue). May repeat in 20min for continued nausea up to 8 mg.

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE: (≤ 14 years of age, ≤ 40 kg, whichever comes first)

ODT **preferred** for children if appropriate.

6 months – 12 years old or <40kg: 0.1mg/kg slow IVP/IO (max 4mg)

For patients ≥ 8 kg and < 15 kg, give 2mg ODT (half tab). For patients ≥ 15 kg, give 4mg ODT.

For patients < 8 kg, defer ondansetron until evaluated by physician.

≥ 40 kg (or ≥ 12 years of age): 4mg slow IVP/IO. May repeat in 20min for continued nausea up to 8mg

NOTES:

- Should be administered IV over 2-5 minutes. Rapid administration has been associated with increased incidence of side effects including syncope.
- Oral disintegrating tablets (ODT's) can be placed on tongue and do not need to be chewed. Medication will dissolve and be swallowed with saliva.
- Ondansetron can be used in pregnancy and breast-feeding mothers (pregnancy class B).

Effective: xx/xx/xx
Supersedes: 4/1/26

DRAFT