

PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**ONDANSETRON**

Ondansetron Tablets, House Standard

This leaflet is part III of a three-part “Product Monograph” published when ONDANSETRON (ondansetron hydrochloride) was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about ONDANSETRON. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ONDANSETRON can only be obtained with a prescription from your doctor.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**What the medication is used for:**

The name of your medicine is ONDANSETRON (ondansetron hydrochloride). This medicine is one of a group called antiemetics.

ONDANSETRON is used for the:

- prevention of nausea (feeling of sickness) and vomiting during treatment for cancer (chemotherapy and radiotherapy).
- prevention and treatment of nausea and vomiting after surgery.

What it does:

Treatments such as general anaesthesia, cancer chemotherapy and radiotherapy are thought to cause the release of a natural substance (serotonin), which can cause you to feel sick and to vomit. ONDANSETRON helps to stop this from happening, thus preventing you from vomiting or feeling sick.

When it should not be used:

Do not take ONDANSETRON if you:

- have a history of hypersensitivity (an allergic reaction) to any ingredient (see What the non-medicinal ingredients are) in ONDANSETRON;
- are taking apomorphine (used to treat Parkinson’s disease).

What the medicinal ingredient is:

Ondansetron hydrochloride dihydrate.

What the non-medicinal ingredients are:

Corn Starch, Croscarmellose Sodium, Lactose, Magnesium Stearate and Microcrystalline Cellulose and a yellow film-coating containing Iron Oxide Yellow, Polyethylene Glycol, Polyvinyl Alcohol, Talc and Titanium Dioxide.

What dosage form it comes in:

Tablets: 8 mg.

Your doctor will decide which strength you need.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

ONDANSETRON is not recommended for use during pregnancy.

Breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with ONDANSETRON. The ingredients can pass into your breast milk and may affect your baby.

ONDANSETRON may harm your unborn baby. If you are a woman of childbearing age, your doctor or healthcare provider will check if you are pregnant and perform a pregnancy test if necessary before starting treatment with ONDANSETRON. You should use effective birth control during treatment and for at least 2 days after stopping ONDANSETRON. Ask your doctor about options of effective birth control.

BEFORE you use ONDANSETRON talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- have a history of hypersensitivity (an allergic reaction) to any ingredient in ONDANSETRON.
- have had an allergic reaction to medicines similar to ONDANSETRON, such as medicines containing *granisetron* or *palonosetron*.
- are pregnant or likely to become pregnant.
- are breast feeding.
- have liver problems.
- have signs of intestinal obstruction.
- have a history of heart problems.

If you experience wheezing and tightness of the chest, heart throbbing, swelling of eyelids, face or lips, or develop a skin rash, skin lumps or hives, **contact your doctor immediately. Do not take any more medicine unless your doctor tells you to do so.**

Serotonin Syndrome is a rare but potentially life-threatening reaction that may occur if you take ONDANSETRON with certain other medications. It may cause serious changes in how your brain, muscles and digestive system work. Be sure to tell your healthcare professional all the medicines you are taking.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

As with most medicines, interactions with other drugs are possible. To avoid potentially life-threatening reactions, tell your healthcare professional about **ALL** the medications you take, including those prescribed by other doctors, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines. It is important that your doctor know about all your medication so that you get the best possible treatment. Tell your doctor if you are taking carbamazepine, phenytoin, or rifampicin. If you are taking any medicines containing tramadol, ONDANSETRON may decrease its effectiveness.

Also, make sure you tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking:

- Drugs used to treat heart rhythm disorders
- Other drugs that may disturb heart rhythm
- Antipsychotics

- Antidepressants
- Antibiotics or antifungals
- Opioid analgesics (painkillers)
- Other drugs to treat nausea and vomiting
- Asthma drugs
- Cancer drugs
- Diuretics
- Other drugs that affect serotonin including SSRI*s, SNRI**s, triptans, MAOIs*** (including the antibiotic linezolid and methylene blue), drugs that contain tryptophan, or St. John’s Wort.

*SSRI (Selective Serotonin-Reuptake Inhibitors) – used to treat depression or anxiety (e.g., escitalopram, citalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline).

**SNRI (Serotonin Noradrenalin Reuptake Inhibitors) – used to treat depression or anxiety (e.g., duloxetine, venlafaxine, desvenlafaxine).

***MAOIs (Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors) – used to treat depression, Parkinson’s disease (e.g., phenelzine, rasagiline, selegiline).

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

The label on the container of your medicine should tell you how often to take your medicine and how many doses you should take each time. If not, or if you are not sure, consult your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take more doses, or take them more often than your doctor prescribes. If, however, you vomit within one hour of taking your medicine, you should take the same amount of medicine again. If vomiting persists, consult your doctor.

Usual dose:

Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting

Based on how likely you are to experience nausea and/or vomiting caused by your cancer treatment, your doctor will tell you the amount you need to take and how frequently.

Adult: You may receive ONDANSETRON before and/or after chemotherapy. The dose of ONDANSETRON is between 8 and 24 mg a day (taken orally) for up to 5 days depending on the potential of your chemotherapy treatment to cause you to vomit and/or have nausea.

Children (4 to 12 years): After chemotherapy, take 4 mg orally every 8 hours for up to 5 days.

Radiotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting

Adult: Take 8 mg orally 1 to 2 hours before radiotherapy. After therapy, take 8 mg orally every 8 hours for up to 5 days after a course of treatment.

Prevention of Post-Operative Nausea and Vomiting

Adult: Take 16 mg orally one hour before anaesthesia.

If you have a liver problem, your dose may be altered. Please follow the instructions of your doctor.

Overdose:

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

If you miss a dose and do not feel sick, take the next dose when it is due.

If you forget to take your medicine and feel sick or vomit, take a dose as soon as possible.

If your doctor decides to stop the treatment, do not keep any leftover medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

You may experience headaches, a feeling of warmth, flushing or constipation, while taking ONDANSETRON. Although uncommon, low blood pressure and hiccups have also been reported.

There is no need to stop taking your medicine, but you should tell your doctor about these symptoms at your next visit.

If your nausea (feeling of sickness) or vomiting do not improve while taking ONDANSETRON, consult your doctor for further advice.

If you feel unwell or have any symptoms that you do not understand, you should contact your doctor immediately.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Side Effect/ Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional	Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
Uncommon	Heart problems such as fast/slow heartbeat, chest pain	✓
	Seizures	✓
	Upward rolling of the eyes, abnormal muscular stiffness/body movements/shaking	✓
Rare	Eye problems such as blurred vision	✓
	Immediate allergic reaction and symptoms such as swelling of the mouth, throat, difficulty in breathing, rash, hives, increased heart rate	✓
	Disturbance in heart rhythm (dizziness, palpitations, fainting)	✓

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Side Effect/ Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional	Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
Serotonin Syndrome: Symptoms of Serotonin Syndrome have been observed while taking ondansetron hydrochloride with certain other medications. Symptoms include: •agitation, confusion, restlessness, hallucinations, mood changes, unconsciousness, coma. •fast heartbeat, changes in blood pressure •muscle shakes, jerks, twitches or stiffness, overactive reflexes, loss of coordination •nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, sweating, shivering.		✓
Very Rare Eye problems such as temporary blindness	✓	
Very Rare Signs of serious skin reactions (skin rash, redness of the skin, blistering of the lips, eyes or mouth, and skin peeling)		✓

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking ONDANSETRON, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

MORE INFORMATION

Remember: This medicine is for you. Only a doctor can prescribe it for you. Never give it to someone else. It may harm them even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

This leaflet does not contain the complete information about your medicine. If any questions remain unanswered or you are not sure about something, you should ask your doctor or pharmacist.

You may want to read this leaflet again. **Please Do Not Throw It Away** until you have finished your medicine.

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals, can be obtained by contacting Pro Doc Ltée at 1-800-361-8559, www.prodoc.qc.ca or info@prodoc.qc.ca.

This leaflet was prepared by:
Pro Doc Ltée, Laval, Québec, H7L 3W9

Last revised: April 06, 2021

HOW TO STORE IT

Keep your medicine in a safe place where children cannot reach it. Your medicine may harm them.

Your ONDANSETRON tablets should be stored protected from light, between 2°C and 30°C.

REPORTING SIDE EFFECTS

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.