
Consumer Medicine Information

ZOFRAN[®] Injection

Ondansetron hydrochloride dihydrate injection 4mg/2mL and 8mg/4mL

What is in this leaflet?

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using Zofran.

This leaflet answers some common questions about Zofran Injection. It does not contain all of the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Sometimes new risks are found even when a medicine has been used for many years. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using Zofran Injection against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this information leaflet. You may need to read it again.

What Zofran is used for

Zofran is used to help stop the nausea (sick feeling) and vomiting which can occur after certain treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It is also used for prevention of nausea and vomiting, which can occur after an operation. Zofran should only be used to treat the nausea and vomiting for which it has been prescribed.

Zofran is not addictive.

Before you use Zofran

When you must not use it

- Do not use Zofran after the expiry or "use by" date (EXP) printed on the pack. If you take it after the expiry date it may not work as well.
- Do not use Zofran if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering or if the solution in the injection looks cloudy, lumpy or discoloured.
- Do not give your Zofran Injection to anyone else.
- Do not use Zofran if you are taking apomorphine (used to treat Parkinson's disease)
- Do not take Zofran if you have ever had an allergic reaction to ondansetron or any of the other ingredients in Zofran which are listed at the end of this leaflet.

Before you take Zofran

- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breast feeding. Your doctor can discuss the risks and benefits of using Zofran Zydys with you.
- If you have had to stop taking another medicine for your nausea or vomiting, tell your doctor.
- If you are allergic to any foods, dyes, preservatives or any other medicine, tell your doctor.
- If you have or used to have liver problems, tell your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you are constipated.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor the names of any medicines you are taking, including those you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking:

- Carbamazepine (TegretolTM, TerilTM) – a medicine for epilepsy, bipolar disorder and some pain conditions
- Rifampicin (RifadinTM, RifanahTM) – an antibiotic used for tuberculosis and other infections
- Phenytoin (DilantinTM) – a medicine for epilepsy
- Tramadol (TramalTM, ZytramTM) – a medicine for pain

Some medicines may affect the way other medicines work. Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to tell you what to do when taking Zofran with other medicines.

Using Zofran Injection

How to use it

Your Injection must only be given by a doctor or a nurse. Sometimes, other medicines are given at the same time. Do not use the injection on your own.

The injection can be given slowly:

- Into a vein
- Into a muscle

Zofran is also available in tablets, or wafer tablets (Zofran Zydis) that dissolve on the tongue.

If your nausea (feeling of sickness) or vomiting does not go away, ask your doctor what to do.

Zofran should not affect your ability to drive or operate machinery.

Side-Effects

Like all medicines, Zofran may cause some side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following side effects and they worry you:

- headache
- a sensation of warmth or flushing
- constipation
- hiccups

These are all mild side effects. There is no immediate reason to stop taking Zofran unless you are concerned.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to your casualty at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following side effects:

- 'wheezy' symptoms
- chest pain or tightness of chest
- changes in the way your heart beats eg if you notice it beating faster or slower than normal, or if it beats irregularly or if it 'throbs'
- disturbance in heart rhythm (sometimes causing sudden loss of consciousness)
- low blood pressure

- fits or convulsions
- swelling of the eyelids, face, lips, mouth or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- skin rash, skin lumps or hives
- problems with muscles or movement

These are all serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

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

Storage

Keep your Zofran:

- In a place where children cannot reach them. A locked cupboard at least one- and-a half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.
- In the pack until it is time to take it.
- In a cool, dry place (below 30°C). Do not leave it in the car on hot days.
- Away from bright sunlight.
- Do not store the medicine in a bathroom or near a sink. Humidity and heat can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

Return any unused medicine or medicine which has gone past its expiry date to your pharmacist.

Product description

What Zofran looks like.

Your Zofran Injection comes in a plastic ampoule wrapped in an individual foil blister.

The ampoules contain ondansetron in 2mL or 4mL clear colourless liquid.

Each pack contains 5 ampoules.

Ingredients

Each solution contains either 4 or 8 milligrams of ondansetron. Your doctor will decide which strength you need.

Your injection also contains small amounts of citric acid, sodium citrate, sodium chloride and water.

Manufacturer

Your Zofran Injection is supplied by:

GlaxoSmithKline NZ Limited

Private Bag 106600
Downtown Auckland
New Zealand

Ph (09) 367 2900

Fax (09) 367 2910

Further Information

Your doctor or pharmacist is the best person to give you advice on the treatment of your condition. You may also be able to find general information about your illness and its treatment from other sources, for example from books in public libraries.

Do not throw this leaflet away. You may want or need to read it again.

The Information provided applies only to:

Zofran Injection.

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Version 2.0, 28 October 2011