



Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust: Information for Families

Ondansetron

This leaflet should be read in conjunction with any patient information leaflet provided by the manufacturer. However, please note that this information sheet explains about the use of ondansetron in children and young people so may differ from the manufacturer's information.

This fact sheet describes ondansetron, how it is given, and some of its possible side effects. Each person reacts differently to drugs, so your child will not necessarily suffer from every side effect mentioned. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

What is ondansetron?

This is a medicine which prevents your child feeling sick (nausea) and being sick (vomiting). This type of drug is called an anti-emetic. It is used mainly for nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy or radiotherapy. It is also used for nausea and vomiting after an operation or caused by some pain killing medicines.

How is it given?

It may be given by mouth in the form of a tablet, melt or a syrup.

It may also be given as an injection into a vein (intravenously or IV), through a cannula, central venous catheter, implantable port or PICC line.

It may be given every 8 to 12 hours and can be combined with other drugs which prevent sickness.

If it is being given after an operation or while our child is having pain-killing medicines, it will usually be given just

while your child is in hospital. If it is being given for sickness caused by chemotherapy, it should be started before the first dose of chemotherapy and continued for up to two days after the end of chemotherapy. If your child is still feeling sick after this time, tell your doctor as other anti-sickness medicines may be more effective at this point.

What are the side effects?

Warm flushes

Your child may complain or talk about sensations of warmth or feeling flushed, particularly in the head or over the stomach.

Headaches

Some children find that ondansetron gives them headaches. Tell your doctor if your child complains of headaches while having treatment with ondansetron.

Constipation

Your child may become constipated. This





can generally be helped by drinking lots of fluids and eating a high fibre diet. Sometimes the doctor may prescribe medicines to stimulate your child's bowel function.

Interactions with other medicines

Some medicines can react with ondansetron, altering how well it works. Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any other medicine, including medicines on prescription from your family doctor (GP), medicines bought from a pharmacy (chemist) or any herbal or complementary medicines.

Notes

Important information you should know

- Keep all medicines and tablets in a safe place where children cannot reach them.
- Store this medicine in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight or heat.
- Ondansetron should be taken as directed by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- If your child vomits after taking the dose, inform the doctor or nurse as your child may need to take another dose. Do not give your child another dose without first informing your doctor.
- If you forget to give your child their dose, do not give them a double dose. Inform your doctor or nurse and keep to your child's regular dose schedule.
- If your doctor decides to stop treatment, return any unused tablets or medicine to the pharmacist. Do not flush or throw them away.

Useful numbers

GOSH switchboard	020 7405 9200
Pharmacy department	020 7829 8680
Pharmacy medicines information	020 7829 8608

Compiled by the Pharmacy Department in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group.

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www.goshfamilies.nhs.uk

www.childrenfirst.nhs.uk

