

Ondansetron

(on-dan-se-tron)

What is ondansetron?

Ondansetron belongs to a group of medicines called anti-emetics (anti-vomit).

What is it for?

Ondansetron is used to stop nausea and vomiting (to prevent feeling sick or throwing up).

How to give this medication

Ondansetron is usually given when needed for nausea and vomiting up to 3 times each day. The doctor will tell you the right dose for your child, and this will be on the medication label.

- **Liquid** should be given using an oral syringe.
- **Tablets** should be swallowed with a glass of water. They can be halved if required to get the right dose. Tablets can also be crushed and mixed in a small amount of water or soft food (e.g. yoghurt, fruit puree).
- **Orally dissolving tablets:** Peel the foil from the blister strip and remove the orally dissolving tablets using dry hands. Do not try and push through the foil as it will break. Place the orally dissolving tablet on the top of the tongue. Do not swallow whole. It will disappear very quickly, then swallow as normal.

Ondansetron can be given with or without food.

Important information

If your child vomits within one hour of taking ondansetron liquid or tablet, you can give another dose. **Do not give another dose of the orally dissolving tablet as it absorbs into the body very quickly.** If your child continues to vomit, please contact your doctor.

If your child shows signs of a severe allergic reaction (rash, hives, wheezing, coughing and/or difficulty breathing), call an ambulance immediately.

Ondansetron can react with other medications. If you're unsure about your child's other medications, ask your child's doctor or a pharmacist.

Storing the medication

Store all forms of ondansetron below 30°C. Store the liquid in an upright position and do not refrigerate. Check that the medication is not expired (out of date). Do not give your child expired medication. Return the expired medication to your local pharmacy for destruction.



It is important to keep all medications locked away out of reach of children. Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or any other damp, warm place, because this may stop the medication from working. Do not leave the medication in the car on hot days.

Possible side effects

Ondansetron is generally well tolerated. Some patients report warm flushes, headache, dry mouth, dizziness, or constipation. If these side effects do occur, they are most likely to be minor and temporary. If you are worried about these side effect or any others, please contact your child's doctor.

Dosage forms and strengths

- Oral liquid (4 mg/5 mL)
- Tablets (4 mg and 8 mg)
- Orally disintegrating (dissolving) tablets (4 mg and 8 mg)

If you have any concerns, contact your child's doctor, or the PCH Pharmacy Department.

PCH Outpatient dispensary: 6456 0190 – select option 2.

PCH Paediatric Medicines Information Service: 6456 0190 – select option 1.

In case of overdose or poisoning contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.



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