

Package Leaflet: Information for the User

Zofran® 8mg Film-coated Tablets

(ondansetron)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions about your illness or your medicine, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

The name of your medicine is Zofran 8mg Film-coated Tablets but will be referred to as Zofran tablets throughout this leaflet.

What is in this leaflet:

- 1 What Zofran tablets are and what they are used for
- 2 What you need to know before you take Zofran tablets
- 3 How to take Zofran tablets
- 4 Possible side effects
- 5 How to store Zofran tablets
- 6 Contents of the pack and other information

1 What Zofran tablets are and what they are used for

Zofran tablets contain a medicine called ondansetron. This belongs to a group of medicines called anti-emetics.

Zofran tablets are used for:

- preventing nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer
- preventing nausea and vomiting after surgery

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you would like any further explanation about these uses.

Zofran tablets should start to work within one or two hours of taking a dose. You must talk to a doctor if you do not feel better or if you feel worse.

2 What you need to know before you take Zofran tablets

Do not take Zofran tablets if:

- if you are taking apomorphine (used to treat Parkinson's Disease)
- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to ondansetron or any of the other ingredients in Zofran tablets (listed in Section 6).

If you are not sure, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before taking Zofran tablets.

Warnings and precautions

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Zofran tablets if:

- you have ever had heart problems
- you have an uneven heart beat (arrhythmias)
- you are allergic to medicines similar to ondansetron, such as granisetron (known as 'Kytrel')
- you have liver problems
- you have a blockage in your gut or suffer from severe constipation
- you have problems with the levels of salts in your blood, such as potassium, sodium and magnesium.
- you are intolerant to some sugars (see section 2)

If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before taking Zofran tablets.

Other medicines and Zofran tablets

Please tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other

medicines. This includes medicines that you buy without a prescription and herbal medicines. This is because Zofran tablets can affect the way some medicines work. Also some other medicines can affect the way Zofran tablets work.

In particular, tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- carbamazepine or phenytoin, used to treat epilepsy, as these medicines may reduce the effect of Zofran
- rifampicin used to treat infections such as tuberculosis (TB), as this medicine may reduce the effect of Zofran
- anti-arrhythmic medicines, used to treat an uneven heart beat, as these medicines may interact with Zofran & effect the rhythm of the heart
- beta-blocker medicines used to treat certain heart or eye problems, anxiety or prevent migraines, as these medicines may interact with Zofran and effect the rhythm of the heart
- tramadol, a pain killer, as Zofran may reduce the effect of tramadol
- medicines that affect the heart (such as haloperidol or methadone)
- cancer medicines (especially anthracyclines) as these may interact with Ondansetron to cause heart arrhythmias
- medicines used to treat depression and/or anxiety:
 - SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) including fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline, fluvoxamine, citalopram, escitalopram
 - SNRIs (serotonin noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors) including venlafaxine, duloxetine

If you are not sure if any of the above applies to you, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before having Zofran tablets.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

It is not known if Zofran tablets are safe during pregnancy. If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Do not breast-feed if you are taking Zofran tablets. This is because small amounts pass into the mother's milk. Ask your doctor or midwife for advice.

Driving and using machines

It is not expected that Zofran tablets will affect your ability to drive; however, if any of the side effects (listed section 4) affect you (e.g. dizziness, blurred vision) caution is advisable. **Do not drive or operate machines if you are feeling unwell.**

Zofran tablets contain lactose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, speak to your doctor before taking this medicine.

3 How to take Zofran tablets

Always take Zofran tablets exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are not sure. The dose you have been prescribed will depend on the treatment you are having.

To prevent nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy or radiotherapy

Adults:

On the day of chemotherapy or radiotherapy

- the usual adult dose is 8mg taken one to two hours before treatment and another 8mg twelve hours after.

On the following days

- the usual adult dose is 8mg twice a day
- this may be given for up to 5 days.

If your chemotherapy or radiotherapy is likely to cause severe nausea and vomiting, you may be given more than

the usual dose of Zofran tablets. Your doctor will decide this.

Children & Adolescents (6 months to 17 years): To prevent nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy only

The doctor will decide the dose. Look at the label for more information.

- the usual dose for a child is up to 4mg twice a day
- this can be given for up to 5 days.

Infants under 6 months of age:

Zofran tablets are not recommended in infants under 6 months of age for the treatment of nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy.

To prevent nausea and vomiting after an operation

Adults

The usual adult dose is 16mg given an hour before your operation.

Children & Adolescents (aged 1 month to 17 years):

Children aged 2 years and over

It is recommended that Zofran is given as an injection.

Children aged under 2 years

There is little information on the correct dose of Zofran tablets for the prevention of nausea & vomiting after an operation in children under 2 years of age. The doctor will decide the correct dose.

Patients with moderate or severe liver problems

The total daily dose should not be more than 8mg. If you have blood tests to check how your liver is working, this medicine may affect the results.

If you are sick (vomit) within one hour of taking a dose

- take the same dose again
- otherwise, do not take more Zofran tablets than the label says.

If you continue to feel sick, tell your doctor or nurse.

If you take more Zofran tablets than you should

If you take more Zofran tablets than you should, talk to a doctor or go to a hospital straight away. Take the medicine pack with you.

If you forget to take Zofran tablets

If you miss a dose **and** feel sick or vomit:

- take Zofran tablets as soon as possible, then
- take your next tablet at the usual time (as shown on the label)
- do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you miss a dose but do not feel sick

- take the next dose as shown on the label
- do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.
- Important: A minimum time interval of 12 hours must be allowed between doses

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Allergic reactions

These reactions are rare in people taking Zofran tablets. If you have an allergic reaction, STOP taking it and see a doctor straight away. The signs may include:

- sudden wheezing and chest pain or chest tightness
- swelling of your eyelids, face, lips, mouth or tongue
- skin rash - red spots or lumps under your skin (hives) anywhere on your body
- collapse.

Other side effects include:

Very common (affects more than 1 in 10 people)

- headache.

Common (affects less than 1 in 10 people)

- a feeling of warmth or flushing
- constipation
- changes to liver function test results (if you take Zofran tablets with a medicine called cisplatin, otherwise this side effect is uncommon).

Uncommon (affects less than 1 in 100 people)

- hiccups
- low blood pressure, which can make you feel faint or dizzy
- uneven heart beat
- chest pain
- slow heart rate
- fits
- unusual body movements or shaking.

Rare (affects less than 1 in 1,000 people)

- feeling dizzy or light headed during IV administration
- blurred vision
- Disturbance in heart rhythm (sometimes causing a sudden loss of consciousness).

Very rare (affects less than 1 in 10,000 people)

- poor vision or temporary loss of eyesight, which usually comes back within 20 minutes.

Reporting side effects HPRA

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5 How to store Zofran tablets

- Keep out of the sight and reach of children
- Do not use Zofran tablets after the expiry date stated on the blister and carton label after 'Exp'. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Do not store above 30°C.
- Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6 Contents of the pack and other information

What Zofran tablets contain

Zofran tablets contain the active ingredient ondansetron (as hydrochloride dihydrate).

The other ingredients are lactose anhydrous, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinised maize starch, magnesium stearate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide (E171) and iron oxide yellow (E172).

What Zofran tablets look like and contents of the pack

Zofran tablets are yellow, biconvex, oval film-coated tablets engraved "GXET5" on one face and plain on the other.

Zofran tablets are available in packs of 10 tablets

Manufactured by: GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals S.A. ul. Grunwaldzka 189, 60-322, Poland.

Procured from within the EU & repackaged by PPA holder: B&S Healthcare, Unit 4, Bradfield Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0NU, UK.

Zofran® 8mg Film-coated Tablets
PPA No: 1328/148/2

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