



29. **ONDANSETRON (ZOFTRAN)**

a) Pharmacology

A selective blocking agent of the serotonin 5-HT₃ receptor type

b) Pharmacokinetics

Anti-nausea and anti-emetic with onset of action within 5–15 minutes IV and 30 minutes IM

c) Indications

- (1) Prevention and control of nausea and/or vomiting
- (2) Ondansetron can be administered in an effort to reduce the nausea or vomiting complications associated with certain existing injuries, medical illness, or medication side effects (e.g., penetrating eye injury, high risk for aspiration, or following opioid administration).

d) Contraindications

Known hypersensitivity to ondansetron
Patients less than 28 days

e) Adverse Effects

- (1) Hypotension
- (2) Tachycardia
- (3) Extrapyramidal reactions
- (4) Seizures
- (5) QT interval prolongation

f) Precautions

- (1) Monitor EKG, pulse oximetry, and blood pressure.
- (2) Have emesis basin and suction ready.

g) Dosage

- (1) Adult: 8 mg SLOW IV over 2–5 minutes OR 4–8 mg IM OR 8 mg orally disintegrating tablet (ODT)

May repeat once without medical consultation.



For third repeat dose to a patient with maximum total dose of 24 mg.

- (2) Pediatric:

Patients 28 days to 12 years old: 0.1 mg/kg SLOW IV over 2–5 minutes

Patients who are 13 to 18 years old: 8 mg ODT OR 8 mg SLOW IV over 2–5 minutes

OR

If no IV: 0.1 mg/kg IM (with max single dose of 8 mg);

May repeat once without medical consultation.



For third repeat dose to a patient with maximum total dose of 0.3 mg/kg or 24 mg, whichever is lower.