



Ondansetron (Zofran) Oral Disintegrating Tablet (ODT)

BLS Medication Protocol

Approved: Jeff Young, OMD, 10.10.2019

Reviewed: 2.21.2020

This protocol only applies to EMTs with special training from a CARS-approved BLS medication administration class.

ALS providers cannot transfer care of a patient to a call after administering one of these medications. If one of these medications is administered with an ALS provider present, the patient must be transported by an ALS unit.

Class: Antiemetic. Selective 5-HT₃ (serotonin) receptor antagonist.

Mechanism of Action: Blocks serotonin binding to 5-HT₃ receptors on vagus nerve terminals and in chemoreceptor trigger zone that activate the vomiting center in the medulla oblongata.

Indications:

- Nausea/Vomiting

Contraindications:

- Hypersensitivity/allergy
- Patient takes apomorphine (Apokyn), used to treat hypomobility in Parkinson's Disease
- Known "prolonged cardiac QT interval" or "long QT syndrome" or patient has been told they cannot take medications that prolong their cardiac QT interval (If unknown, can administer)

Dosage/Supplied:

- 4mg ODT from TJEMS drug box
- 8mg ODT from pink CARS medication kit

Both can be administered under this protocol and there is no preference for either. Be sure to document correct dosage given. Only one dose may be administered of either 4mg or 8mg ODT.

Route of Administration:

- Place ODT on top of patient's tongue. Tablet should dissolve in seconds.

Pharmacokinetics:

ODT: Onset: 60 minutes, Peak: 2 hours, Half-life: 3 hours

Side Effects

- Headache
- Drowsiness
- GI issues
- Serotonin syndrome: Life-threatening reaction to serotonergic agents causing autonomic instability, mental status changes, neuromuscular changes, seizures
- Prolonged QT interval leading to Torsades de Pointes (ventricular tachycardia) and cardiac arrest. Increased risk in patients taking multiple QT prolonging medications (most commonly: antiarrhythmics, antipsychotics, antidepressants)

Administration Notes:

- Sit patient up above 45°. Patient must be able to swallow.
- Peel off foil backing. Do not attempt to push tablet through.