



In the News

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Zofran® (ondansetron hydrochloride) Injection
 Zofran® (ondansetron hydrochloride) Injection Premixed
 Zofran® (ondansetron hydrochloride) Tablets

mentation is the same as for the general population.

Dosage Adjustment for Patients With Impaired Renal Function: No specific studies have been conducted in patients with renal insufficiency.

Dosage Adjustment for Patients With Impaired Hepatic Function: In patients with severe hepatic impairment according to Child-Pugh¹ criteria, a single maximal daily dose of 8 mg to be infused over 15 minutes beginning 30 minutes before the start of the emetogenic chemotherapy is recommended. There is no experience beyond first-day administration of ondansetron.

Stability: Zofran Injection is stable at room temperature under normal lighting conditions for 48 hours after dilution with the following IV fluids: 0.9% sodium chloride injection, 5% dextrose injection, 5% dextrose and 0.9% sodium chloride injection, 5% dextrose and 0.45% sodium chloride injection, and 3% sodium chloride injection.

Although Zofran Injection is chemically and physically stable when diluted as recommended, sterile precautions should be observed because diluents generally do not contain preservative. After dilution, do not use beyond 24 hours.

Note: Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration before administration whenever solution and container permit.

Precaution: Occasionally, ondansetron precipitates at the stopper/vial interface in vials stored upright. Potency and safety are not affected. If a precipitate is observed, resuspend by shaking the vial vigorously.

Zofran® Tablets: Prevention of Nausea and Vomiting Associated With Moderately Emetogenic Cancer Chemotherapy: The recommended oral dosage of Zofran Tablets is one 8-mg tablet given three times a day. The first dose should be administered 30 minutes before the start of emetogenic chemotherapy, with subsequent doses 4 and 8 hours after the first dose. One 8-mg Zofran Tablet should be administered three times a day (every 8 hours) for 1 to 2 days after completion of chemotherapy.

Pediatric Use: For patients 12 years of age and older, the dosage is the same as for adults. For patients 4 to 12 years of age, the recommended oral dosage is one 4-mg tablet given three times a day. The method and frequency of administration is the same as for adults.

Use in the Elderly: The dosage is the same as for the general population.

Prevention of Nausea and Vomiting Associated With Radiotherapy, Either Total Body Irradiation, or Single High-Dose Fraction or Daily Fractions to the Abdomen: The recommended oral dosage of Zofran Tablets is one 8-mg tablet given three times a day.

For total body irradiation, an 8-mg dose should be administered 1 to 2 hours before each fraction of radiotherapy administered each day.

For single high-dose fraction radiotherapy to the abdomen, an 8-mg dose should be administered 1 to 2 hours before radiotherapy, with subsequent doses every 8 hours after the first dose for 1 to 2 days after completion of radiotherapy.

For daily fractionated radiotherapy to the abdomen, an 8-mg dose should be administered 1 to 2 hours before radiotherapy, with subsequent doses every 8 hours after the first dose for each day radiotherapy is given.

Pediatric Use: There is no experience with the use of Zofran Tablets in the prevention of radiation-induced nausea and vomiting in children.

Use in the Elderly: The dosage recommendation is the same as for the general population.

Dosage Adjustment for Patients With Impaired Renal Function: No specific studies have been conducted in patients with renal insufficiency.

Dosage Adjustment for Patients With Impaired Hepatic Function: In patients with severe hepatic insufficiency, clearance is reduced, apparent volume of distribution is increased with a resultant increase in plasma half-life, and bioavailability approaches 100%. In such patients, a total daily dose of 8 mg should not be exceeded.

REFERENCE: 1. Pugh RNH, Murray-Lyon IM, Dawson JL, Pietroni MC, Williams R. Transection of the oesophagus for bleeding oesophageal varices. *Brit J Surg.* 1973;60:646-649.

CERENEX™
 PHARMACEUTICALS
 DIVISION OF GLAXO INC.

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Zofran® Injection:
 Cerenex Pharmaceuticals
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
 Manufactured in England

Zofran® Injection Premixed:
 Manufactured for Cerenex Pharmaceuticals
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
 by Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL 60064

Zofran® Tablets:
 Cerenex Pharmaceuticals
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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MANAGING ANEMIA

A new toll-free service enables health care professionals to consult with leading experts on issues relating to management of anemia and lymphoproliferative disorders. The Peer-to-Peer Network, a dedicated faculty of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, has been established to provide one-on-one expert consultation on patient management, therapeutic information, and expertise for patients who will benefit from the appropriate use of Epoetin alfa or cladribine. The program is not designed for direct communication with patients.

The Peer-to-Peer Network can be reached through a toll-free number, 1-800-984-7337, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time. The program is supported through educational funding from Ortho Biotech Inc. and The R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute. The program is managed by PRO ED COMMUNICATIONS, INC., an independent health science communications company.

LEARNING A LESSON FROM ZINK THE ZEBRA

A new national cancer advocacy organization named Zink the Zebra Foundation, Inc., has been established to fund educational programs that teach understanding and compassion toward children with cancer. The Foundation also works to increase government funding for research and gives money for cancer research, such as the recent gift of \$50,000 to the National Childhood Cancer Foundation in support of the pediatric hematology-oncology program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine.

Zink the Zebra Foundation, Inc., was established in Milwaukee, Wisc., by Les Weil, father of an eleven-year-old girl who died of osteosarcoma. Les Weil plans to publish his daughter Kelly's first and only literary effort, *Zink the Zebra*. Kelly wrote about a zebra with spots instead of stripes, a brave little dot-speckled animal who was in need of acceptance from his striped friends at the zoo. The little girl wanted to use *Zink* to help others understand her plight of being a special, yet different child—one with cancer. Zink the Zebra Foundation, Inc., is committed to transforming Kelly's wish into reality.

For more information about how your facility can develop a relationship with the Foundation, contact: Zink the Zebra Foundation, Inc., 316 E. Silver Spring Dr., Suite 214, Milwaukee, WI 53217. Or call (414) 963-4484. ■