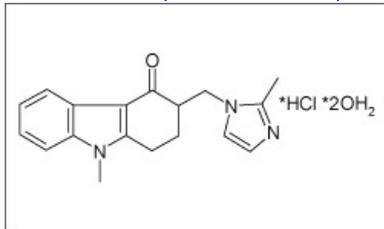


# Ondansetron

Printed from <https://www.cancerquest.org/patients/drug-reference/ondansetron> on 05/17/2026



Brand name: Zofran®

IUPAC: 9-methyl-3-[(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)methyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-carbazol-4-one

FDA approval: Yes

[Manufacturer Link](#)

Usage:

Ondansetron (Zofran®) is used to prevent nausea and vomiting associated with cytotoxic effects of chemotherapy and some radiation schedules. Ondansetron is administered in pill form, as an oral solution or as an injection.[1](#)

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1 Ondansetron. MedlinePlus. 2016. <https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a601209.html>

Mechanism:

Ondansetron (also called Ratio-ondansetron) works by blocking the reception of serotonin at 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors which initiate the vomiting reflex that is often associated with chemotherapy treatment.[1](#)

The diagram above shows the 3D molecular structure of Ondansetron.

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1 Ondansetron. MedlinePlus. 2016. <https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a601209.html>

Side effects:

Headache, constipation or diarrhea and weakness are the most common adverse effects associated with the use of Zofran® though it is not clear if these effects are properties of this drug or the chemotherapy drugs that are taken concurrently (at the same time).[1](#)

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1 Ondansetron. MedlinePlus. 2016. <https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a601209.html>