PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

2 **ZOFRAN**[®]

- 3 (ondansetron hydrochloride)
- 4 Injection
- 5

6 ZOFRAN[®]

- 7 (ondansetron hydrochloride)
- 8 Injection Premixed

9 **DESCRIPTION**

- 10 The active ingredient in ZOFRAN Injection and ZOFRAN Injection Premixed is ondansetron
- 11 hydrochloride (HCl), the racemic form of ondansetron and a selective blocking agent of the
- 12 serotonin 5-HT₃ receptor type. Chemically it is (\pm) 1, 2, 3, 9-tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-
- 13 1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one, monohydrochloride, dihydrate. It has the
- 14 following structural formula:
- 15



- 16 17
- 18 The empirical formula is $C_{18}H_{19}N_3O$ •HCl•2H₂O, representing a molecular weight of 365.9.

19 Ondansetron HCl is a white to off-white powder that is soluble in water and normal saline.

20 Sterile Injection for Intravenous (I.V.) or Intramuscular (I.M.) Administration: Each

21 1 mL of aqueous solution in the 2-mL single-dose vial contains 2 mg of ondansetron as the

22 hydrochloride dihydrate; 9.0 mg of sodium chloride, USP; and 0.5 mg of citric acid

23 monohydrate, USP and 0.25 mg of sodium citrate dihydrate, USP as buffers in Water for

24 Injection, USP.

Each 1 mL of aqueous solution in the 20-mL multidose vial contains 2 mg of ondansetron as

the hydrochloride dihydrate; 8.3 mg of sodium chloride, USP; 0.5 mg of citric acid monohydrate,

USP and 0.25 mg of sodium citrate dihydrate, USP as buffers; and 1.2 mg of methylparaben, NF

and 0.15 mg of propylparaben, NF as preservatives in Water for Injection, USP.

ZOFRAN Injection is a clear, colorless, nonpyrogenic, sterile solution. The pH of the injectionsolution is 3.3 to 4.0.

31 Sterile, Premixed Solution for Intravenous Administration in Single-Dose, Flexible

32 **Plastic Containers:** Each 50 mL contains ondansetron 32 mg (as the hydrochloride dihydrate);

dextrose 2,500 mg; and citric acid 26 mg and sodium citrate 11.5 mg as buffers in Water for

34 Injection, USP. It contains no preservatives. The osmolarity of this solution is 270 mOsm/L

35 (approx.), and the pH is 3.0 to 4.0.

36 The flexible plastic container is fabricated from a specially formulated, nonplasticized,

37 thermoplastic co-polyester (CR3). Water can permeate from inside the container into the

38 overwrap but not in amounts sufficient to affect the solution significantly. Solutions inside the

39 plastic container also can leach out certain of the chemical components in very small amounts

40 before the expiration period is attained. However, the safety of the plastic has been confirmed by

41 tests in animals according to USP biological standards for plastic containers.

42 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

- 43 **Pharmacodynamics:** Ondansetron is a selective 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist. While
- 44 ondansetron's mechanism of action has not been fully characterized, it is not a dopamine-receptor
- 45 antagonist. Serotonin receptors of the 5-HT₃ type are present both peripherally on vagal nerve

terminals and centrally in the chemoreceptor trigger zone of the area postrema. It is not certain

47 whether ondansetron's antiemetic action in chemotherapy-induced emesis is mediated centrally,

48 peripherally, or in both sites. However, cytotoxic chemotherapy appears to be associated with

49 release of serotonin from the enterochromaffin cells of the small intestine. In humans, urinary

50 5-HIAA (5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid) excretion increases after cisplatin administration in parallel

51 with the onset of emesis. The released serotonin may stimulate the vagal afferents through the

52 5-HT₃ receptors and initiate the vomiting reflex.

In animals, the emetic response to cisplatin can be prevented by pretreatment with an inhibitor
 of serotonin synthesis, bilateral abdominal vagotomy and greater splanchnic nerve section, or

55 pretreatment with a seroton in 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist.

56 In normal volunteers, single I.V. doses of 0.15 mg/kg of ondansetron had no effect on

57 esophageal motility, gastric motility, lower esophageal sphincter pressure, or small intestinal

transit time. In another study in six normal male volunteers, a 16-mg dose infused over 5 minutes

59 showed no effect of the drug on cardiac output, heart rate, stroke volume, blood pressure, or

60 electrocardiogram (ECG). Multiday administration of ondansetron has been shown to slow

61 colonic transit in normal volunteers. Ondansetron has no effect on plasma prolactin

62 concentrations.

63 In a gender-balanced pharmacodynamic study (n = 56), ondansetron 4 mg administered

64 intravenously or intramuscularly was dynamically similar in the prevention of emesis and nausea65 using the ipecacuanha model of emesis. Both treatments were well tolerated.

66 Ondansetron does not alter the respiratory depressant effects produced by alfentanil or the 67 degree of neuromuscular blockade produced by atracurium. Interactions with general or local

68 anesthetics have not been studied.

69 **Pharmacokinetics:** Ondansetron is extensively metabolized in humans, with approximately

70 5% of a radiolabeled dose recovered as the parent compound from the urine. The primary

71 metabolic pathway is hydroxylation on the indole ring followed by glucuronide or sulfate

72 conjugation.

- Although some nonconjugated metabolites have pharmacologic activity, these are not found
- 74 in plasma at concentrations likely to significantly contribute to the biological activity of
- 75 ondansetron.
- 76 In vitro metabolism studies have shown that ondansetron is a substrate for human hepatic
- 77 cytochrome P-450 enzymes, including CYP1A2, CYP2D6, and CYP3A4. In terms of overall
- ondansetron turnover, CYP3A4 played the predominant role. Because of the multiplicity of
- 79 metabolic enzymes capable of metabolizing ondansetron, it is likely that inhibition or loss of one
- 80 enzyme (e.g., CYP2D6 genetic deficiency) will be compensated by others and may result in little
- 81 change in overall rates of ondansetron elimination. Ondansetron elimination may be affected by
- 82 cytochrome P-450 inducers. In a pharmacokinetic study of 16 epileptic patients maintained
- 83 chronically on CYP3A4 inducers, carbamazepine, or phenytoin, reduction in AUC, C_{max} , and $T_{\frac{1}{2}}$
- 84 of ondansetron was observed.¹ This resulted in a significant increase in clearance. However, on
- 85 the basis of available data, no dosage adjustment for ondansetron is recommended (see
- 86 PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions).
- 87 In humans, carmustine, etoposide, and cisplatin do not affect the pharmacokinetics of88 ondansetron.
- 89 In normal volunteers, the following mean pharmacokinetic data have been determined
- 90 following a single 0.15-mg/kg I.V. dose.
- 91

92 **Table 1. Pharmacokinetics in Normal Volunteers**

		Peak Plasma		
		Concentration	Mean Elimination	Plasma Clearance
Age-group	n	(ng/mL)	Half-life (h)	(L/h/kg)
19-40	11	102	3.5	0.381
61-74	12	106	4.7	0.319
≥75	11	170	5.5	0.262

93

A reduction in clearance and increase in elimination half-life are seen in patients over 75 years
of age. In clinical trials with cancer patients, safety and efficacy were similar in patients over 65
years of age and those under 65 years of age; there was an insufficient number of patients over
75 years of age to permit conclusions in that age-group. No dosage adjustment is recommended
in the elderly.
In patients with mild-to-moderate hepatic impairment, clearance is reduced twofold and mean

In patients with mild-to-moderate hepatic impairment, clearance is reduced twofold and mean
 half-life is increased to 11.6 hours compared to 5.7 hours in normals. In patients with severe

hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh score² of 10 or greater), clearance is reduced twofold to threefold

and apparent volume of distribution is increased with a resultant increase in half-life to 20 hours.

103 In patients with severe hepatic impairment, a total daily dose of 8 mg should not be exceeded.

104 Due to the very small contribution (5%) of renal clearance to the overall clearance, renal

105 impairment was not expected to significantly influence the total clearance of ondansetron.

- 106 However, ondansetron mean plasma clearance was reduced by about 41% in patients with severe
- 107 renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 mL/min). This reduction in clearance is variable and
- 108 was not consistent with an increase in half-life. No reduction in dose or dosing frequency in
- 109 these patients is warranted.
- 110 In adult cancer patients, the mean elimination half-life was 4.0 hours, and there was no
- 111 difference in the multidose pharmacokinetics over a 4-day period. In a study of 21 pediatric
- 112 cancer patients (aged 4 to 18 years) who received three I.V. doses of 0.15 mg/kg of ondansetron
- 113 at 4-hour intervals, patients older than 15 years of age exhibited ondansetron pharmacokinetic
- 114 parameters similar to those of adults. Patients aged 4 to 12 years generally showed higher
- clearance and somewhat larger volume of distribution than adults. Most pediatric patients
- 116 younger than 15 years of age with cancer had a shorter (2.4 hours) ondansetron plasma half-life 117 than patients older than 15 years of age. It is not known whether these differences in ondansetron
- plasma half-life may result in differences in efficacy between adults and some young pediatric
- 119 patients (see CLINICAL TRIALS: Pediatric Studies).
- 120 In a study of 21 pediatric patients (aged 3 to 12 years) who were undergoing surgery requiring
- 121 anesthesia for a duration of 45 minutes to 2 hours, a single I.V. dose of ondansetron, 2 mg (3 to
- 122 7 years) or 4 mg (8 to 12 years), was administered immediately prior to anesthesia induction.
- 123 Mean weight-normalized clearance and volume of distribution values in these pediatric surgical
- 124 patients were similar to those previously reported for young adults. Mean terminal half-life was
- slightly reduced in pediatric patients (range, 2.5 to 3 hours) in comparison with adults (range, 3 to
- 126 3.5 hours).
- 127 In normal volunteers (19 to 39 years old, n = 23), the peak plasma concentration was
- 128 264 ng/mL following a single 32-mg dose administered as a 15-minute I.V. infusion. The mean
- 129 elimination half-life was 4.1 hours. Systemic exposure to 32 mg of ondansetron was not
- 130 proportional to dose as measured by comparing dose-normalized AUC values to an 8-mg dose.
- 131 This is consistent with a small decrease in systemic clearance with increasing plasma 132 concentrations.
- 133 A study was performed in normal volunteers (n = 56) to evaluate the pharmacokinetics of a
- 134 single 4-mg dose administered as a 5-minute infusion compared to a single intramuscular
- 135 injection. Systemic exposure as measured by mean AUC was equivalent, with values of 156
- 136 [95% CI 136, 180] and 161 [95% CI 137, 190] ng•h/mL for I.V. and I.M. groups, respectively.
- 137 Mean peak plasma concentrations were 42.9 [95% CI 33.8, 54.4] ng/mL at 10 minutes after I.V.
- 138 infusion and 31.9 [95% CI 26.3, 38.6] ng/mL at 41 minutes after I.M. injection. The mean
- 139 elimination half-life was not affected by route of administration.
- 140 Plasma protein binding of ondansetron as measured in vitro was 70% to 76%, with binding
- 141 constant over the pharmacologic concentration range (10 to 500 ng/mL). Circulating drug also
- 142 distributes into erythrocytes.
- 143 A positive lymphoblast transformation test to ondansetron has been reported, which suggests
- 144 immunologic sensitivity to ondansetron.

145 CLINICAL TRIALS

- 146 **Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting:** In a double-blind study of three different
- 147 dosing regimens of ZOFRAN Injection, 0.015 mg/kg, 0.15 mg/kg, and 0.30 mg/kg, each given
- 148 three times during the course of cancer chemotherapy, the 0.15-mg/kg dosing regimen was more
- 149 effective than the 0.015-mg/kg dosing regimen. The 0.30-mg/kg dosing regimen was not shown
- 150 to be more effective than the 0.15-mg/kg dosing regimen.
- 151 *Cisplatin-Based Chemotherapy:* In a double-blind study in 28 patients, ZOFRAN
- 152 Injection (three 0.15-mg/kg doses) was significantly more effective than placebo in preventing
- 153 nausea and vomiting induced by cisplatin-based chemotherapy. Treatment response was as
- 154 shown in Table 2.
- 155

Table 2. Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Emesis in Single-Day Cisplatin Therapy*

157 Therapy*

	ZOFRAN		
	Injection	Placebo	P Value [†]
Number of patients	14	14	
Treatment response			
0 Emetic episodes	2 (14%)	0 (0%)	
1-2 Emetic episodes	8 (57%)	0 (0%)	
3-5 Emetic episodes	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	
More than 5 emetic episodes/rescued	2 (14%)	13 (93%)	0.001
Median number of emetic episodes	1.5	Undefined [‡]	
Median time to first emetic episode (h)	11.6	2.8	0.001
Median nausea scores (0-100) [§]	3	59	0.034
Global satisfaction with control of nausea and vomiting $(0-100)^{II}$	96	10.5	0.009

* Chemotherapy was high dose (100 and 120 mg/m²; ZOFRAN Injection n = 6, placebo n = 5) or moderate dose (50 and 80 mg/m²; ZOFRAN Injection n = 8, placebo n = 9). Other

- 160 chemotherapeutic agents included fluorouracil, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide. There
- was no difference between treatments in the types of chemotherapy that would account fordifferences in response.
- 163 [†] Efficacy based on "all patients treated" analysis.
- 164 [‡] Median undefined since at least 50% of the patients were rescued or had more than five
 165 emetic episodes.
- 166 $\frac{\$}{3}$ Visual analog scale assessment of nausea: 0 = no nausea, 100 = nausea as bad as it can be.
- 167 ^{II} Visual analog scale assessment of satisfaction: 0 = not at all satisfied, 100 = totally satisfied.
- 168

- 169 Ondansetron was compared with metoclopramide in a single-blind trial in 307 patients
- 170 receiving cisplatin \geq 100 mg/m² with or without other chemotherapeutic agents. Patients received
- 171 the first dose of ondansetron or metoclopramide 30 minutes before cisplatin. Two additional
- 172 ondansetron doses were administered 4 and 8 hours later, or five additional metoclopramide
- doses were administered 2, 4, 7, 10, and 13 hours later. Cisplatin was administered over a period
- 174 of 3 hours or less. Episodes of vomiting and retching were tabulated over the period of 24 hours
- after cisplatin. The results of this study are summarized in Table 3.
- 176

177 Table 3. Prevention of Emesis Induced by Cisplatin (≥100 mg/m²) Single-Day Therapy*

	ZOFRAN		
	Injection	Metoclopramide	P Value
Dose	0.15 mg/kg x 3	2 mg/kg x 6	
Number of patients in efficacy population	136	138	
Treatment response			
0 Emetic episodes	54 (40%)	41 (30%)	
1-2 Emetic episodes	34 (25%)	30 (22%)	
3-5 Emetic episodes	19 (14%)	18 (13%)	
More than 5 emetic episodes/rescued	29 (21%)	49 (36%)	
Comparison of treatments with respect to			
0 Emetic episodes	54/136	41/138	0.083
More than 5 emetic episodes/rescued	29/136	49/138	0.009
Median number of emetic episodes	1	2	0.005
Median time to first emetic episode (h)	20.5	4.3	< 0.001
Global satisfaction with control of nausea			
and vomiting $(0-100)^{\dagger}$	85	63	0.001
Acute dystonic reactions	0	8	0.005
Akathisia	0	10	0.002

178 * In addition to cisplatin, 68% of patients received other chemotherapeutic agents, including
179 cyclophosphamide, etoposide, and fluorouracil. There was no difference between treatments
180 in the types of chemotherapy that would account for differences in response.

- 181 ^{\dagger} Visual analog scale assessment: 0 = not at all satisfied, 100 = totally satisfied.
- 182

In a stratified, randomized, double-blind, parallel-group, multicenter study, a single 32-mg dose of ondansetron was compared with three 0.15-mg/kg doses in patients receiving cisplatin doses of either 50 to 70 mg/m² or \geq 100 mg/m². Patients received the first ondansetron dose

186 30 minutes before cisplatin. Two additional ondansetron doses were administered 4 and 8 hours

187 later to the group receiving three 0.15-mg/kg doses. In both strata, significantly fewer patients on

188 the single 32-mg dose than those receiving the three-dose regimen failed.

189

190 **Table 4. Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Emesis in Single-Dose Therapy**

		Ondansetron	
	0.15 mg/kg x 3	32 mg x 1	P Value
High-dose cisplatin (≥100 mg/m ²)		- 0	
Number of patients	100	102	
Treatment response			
0 Emetic episodes	41 (41%)	49 (48%)	0.315
1-2 Emetic episodes	19 (19%)	25 (25%)	
3-5 Emetic episodes	4 (4%)	8 (8%)	
More than 5 emetic episodes/rescued	36 (36%)	20 (20%)	0.009
Median time to first emetic episode (h)	21.7	23	0.173
Median nausea scores (0-100)*	28	13	0.004
Medium-dose cisplatin (50-70 mg/m ²)			
Number of patients	101	93	
Treatment response			
0 Emetic episodes	62 (61%)	68 (73%)	0.083
1-2 Emetic episodes	11 (11%)	14 (15%)	
3-5 Emetic episodes	6 (6%)	3 (3%)	
More than 5 emetic episodes/rescued	22 (22%)	8 (9%)	0.011
Median time to first emetic episode (h)	Undefined [†]	Undefined	
Median nausea scores (0-100)*	9	3	0.131

191 * Visual analog scale assessment: 0 = no nausea, 100 = nausea as bad as it can be.

[†] Median undefined since at least 50% of patients did not have any emetic episodes.

193

Cyclophosphamide-Based Chemotherapy: In a double-blind, placebo-controlled study
 of ZOFRAN Injection (three 0.15-mg/kg doses) in 20 patients receiving cyclophosphamide (500
 to 600 mg/m²) chemotherapy, ZOFRAN Injection was significantly more effective than placebo
 in preventing nausea and vomiting. The results are summarized in Table 5.

198

199 Table 5. Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Emesis in Single-Day

200 **Cyclophosphamide Therapy***

	ZOFRAN		
	Injection	Placebo	P Value [†]
Number of patients	10	10	
Treatment response			
0 Emetic episodes	7 (70%)	0 (0%)	0.001
1-2 Emetic episodes	0 (0%)	2 (20%)	
3-5 Emetic episodes	2 (20%)	4 (40%)	
More than 5 emetic episodes/rescued	1 (10%)	4 (40%)	0.131
Median number of emetic episodes	0	4	0.008
Median time to first emetic episode (h)	Undefined [‡]	8.79	
Median nausea scores (0-100) [§]	0	60	0.001
Global satisfaction with control of			
nausea and vomiting (0-100) ^{II}	100	52	0.008

201 * Chemotherapy consisted of cyclophosphamide in all patients, plus other agents, including 202 fluorouracil, doxorubicin, methotrexate, and vincristine. There was no difference between 203 treatments in the type of chemotherapy that would account for differences in response.

- Ť 204 Efficacy based on "all patients treated" analysis.
- 205 [‡] Median undefined since at least 50% of patients did not have any emetic episodes.
- [§] Visual analog scale assessment of nausea: 0 = no nausea, 100 = nausea as bad as it can be. 206
- ^{II} Visual analog scale assessment of satisfaction: 0 = not at all satisfied, 100 = totally satisfied. 207
- 208

209 **Re-treatment:** In uncontrolled trials, 127 patients receiving cisplatin (median dose,

210 100 mg/m^2) and ondansetron who had two or fewer emetic episodes were re-treated with

211 ondansetron and chemotherapy, mainly cisplatin, for a total of 269 re-treatment courses (median,

212 2; range, 1 to 10). No emetic episodes occurred in 160 (59%), and two or fewer emetic episodes

213 occurred in 217 (81%) re-treatment courses.

214 **Pediatric Studies:** Four open-label, noncomparative (one US, three foreign) trials have

215 been performed with 209 pediatric cancer patients aged 4 to 18 years given a variety of cisplatin 216 or noncisplatin regimens. In the three foreign trials, the initial ZOFRAN Injection dose ranged

- 217 from 0.04 to 0.87 mg/kg for a total dose of 2.16 to 12 mg. This was followed by the oral
- 218 administration of ondansetron ranging from 4 to 24 mg daily for 3 days. In the US trial,
- 219 ZOFRAN was administered intravenously (only) in three doses of 0.15 mg/kg each for a total
- 220 daily dose of 7.2 to 39 mg. In these studies, 58% of the 196 evaluable patients had a complete
- 221 response (no emetic episodes) on day 1. Thus, prevention of emesis in these pediatric patients

- was essentially the same as for patients older than 18 years of age. Overall, ZOFRAN Injection
- 223 was well tolerated in these pediatric patients.
- 224 Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting: *Prevention of Postoperative Nausea and*
- 225 **Vomiting:** Adult surgical patients who received ondansetron immediately before the induction
- 226 of general balanced anesthesia (barbiturate: thiopental, methohexital, or thiamylal; opioid:
- 227 alfentanil or fentanyl; nitrous oxide; neuromuscular blockade: succinylcholine/curare and/or
- vecuronium or atracurium; and supplemental isoflurane) were evaluated in two double-blind US
- studies involving 554 patients. ZOFRAN Injection (4 mg) I.V. given over 2 to 5 minutes was
- significantly more effective than placebo. The results of these studies are summarized in Table 6.
- 231

	Ondansetron		
	4 mg I.V.	Placebo	P Value
Study 1			
Emetic episodes:			
Number of patients	136	139	
Treatment response over 24-h			
postoperative period			
0 Emetic episodes	103 (76%)	64 (46%)	< 0.001
1 Emetic episode	13 (10%)	17 (12%)	
More than 1 emetic episode/rescued	20 (15%)	58 (42%)	
Nausea assessments:			
Number of patients	134	136	
No nausea over 24-h postoperative	56 (42%)	39 (29%)	
period			
Study 2			
Emetic episodes:			
Number of patients	136	143	
Treatment response over 24-h			
postoperative period			
0 Emetic episodes	85 (63%)	63 (44%)	0.002
1 Emetic episode	16 (12%)	29 (20%)	
More than 1 emetic episode/rescued	35 (26%)	51 (36%)	
Nausea assessments:			
Number of patients	125	133	
No nausea over 24-h postoperative	48 (38%)	42 (32%)	
period			

232 Table 6. Prevention of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting in Adult Patients

233

234 The study populations in Table 6 consisted mainly of females undergoing laparoscopic procedures.

235

236 In a placebo-controlled study conducted in 468 males undergoing outpatient procedures, a

237 single 4 mg I.V. ondansetron dose prevented postoperative vomiting over a 24-hour study period 238 in 79% of males receiving drug compared to 63% of males receiving placebo (P < 0.001).

239 Two other placebo-controlled studies were conducted in 2,792 patients undergoing major

240 abdominal or gynecological surgeries to evaluate a single 4-mg or 8-mg I.V. ondansetron dose

241 for prevention of postoperative nausea and vomiting over a 24-hour study period. At the 4-mg

dosage, 59% of patients receiving ondansetron versus 45% receiving placebo in the first study 242

243 (P<0.001) and 41% of patients receiving ondansetron versus 30% receiving placebo in the second

study (*P*=0.001) experienced no emetic episodes. No additional benefit was observed in patients

who received I.V. ondansetron 8 mg compared to patients who received I.V. ondansetron 4 mg.

246 **Pediatric Studies:** Three double-blind, placebo-controlled studies have been performed 247 (one US, two foreign) in 1,049 male and female patients (2 to 12 years of age) undergoing 248 general anesthesia with nitrous oxide. The surgical procedures included tonsillectomy with or 249 without adenoidectomy, strabismus surgery, herniorrhaphy, and orchidopexy. Patients were 250 randomized to either single I.V. doses of ondansetron (0.1 mg/kg for pediatric patients weighing 251 40 kg or less, 4 mg for pediatric patients weighing more than 40 kg) or placebo. Study drug was 252 administered over at least 30 seconds, immediately prior to or following anesthesia induction. 253 Ondansetron was significantly more effective than placebo in preventing nausea and vomiting.

- The results of these studies are summarized in Table 7.
- 255

Treatment Response Over	Ondansetron	Placebo	
24 Hours	n (%)	n (%)	P Value
Study 1			
Number of patients	205	210	
0 Emetic episodes	140 (68%)	82 (39%)	≤0.001
Failure*	65 (32%)	128 (61%)	
Study 2			
Number of patients	112	110	
0 Emetic episodes	68 (61%)	38 (35%)	≤0.001
Failure*	44 (39%)	72 (65%)	
Study 3			
Number of patients	206	206	
0 Emetic episodes	123 (60%)	96 (47%)	≤0.01
Failure*	83 (40%)	110 (53%)	
Nausea assessments ^{\dagger} :			
Number of patients	185	191	
None	119 (64%)	99 (52%)	≤0.01

256 Table 7. Prevention of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting in Pediatric Patients

* Failure was one or more emetic episodes, rescued, or withdrawn.

[†] Nausea measured as none, mild, or severe.

259

257

260 *Prevention of Further Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting:* Adult surgical patients
 261 receiving general balanced anesthesia (barbiturate: thiopental, methohexital, or thiamylal; opioid:
 262 alfentanil or fentanyl; nitrous oxide; neuromuscular blockade: succinylcholine/curare and/or

- 263 vecuronium or atracurium; and supplemental isoflurane) who received no prophylactic
- antiemetics and who experienced nausea and/or vomiting within 2 hours postoperatively were
- evaluated in two double-blind US studies involving 441 patients. Patients who experienced an
- 266 episode of postoperative nausea and/or vomiting were given ZOFRAN Injection (4 mg) I.V. over
- 267 2 to 5 minutes, and this was significantly more effective than placebo. The results of these studies
- are summarized in Table 8.
- 269

270 Table 8. Prevention of Further Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting in Adult Patients

	Ondansetron		
	4 mg I.V.	Placebo	P Value
Study 1			
Emetic episodes:			
Number of patients	104	117	
Treatment response 24 h after study drug			
0 Emetic episodes	49 (47%)	19 (16%)	< 0.001
1 Emetic episode	12 (12%)	9 (8%)	
More than 1 emetic episode/rescued	43 (41%)	89 (76%)	
Median time to first emetic episode (min)*	55.0	43.0	
Nausea assessments:			
Number of patients	98	102	
Mean nausea score over 24-h postoperative	1.7	3.1	
period [†]			
Study 2			
Emetic episodes:			
Number of patients	112	108	
Treatment response 24 h after study drug			
0 Emetic episodes	49 (44%)	28 (26%)	0.006
1 Emetic episode	14 (13%)	3 (3%)	
More than 1 emetic episode/rescued	49 (44%)	77 (71%)	
Median time to first emetic episode (min)*	60.5	34.0	
Nausea assessments:			
Number of patients	105	85	
Mean nausea score over 24-h postoperative	1.9	2.9	
period [†]			

271 * After administration of study drug.

- [†] Nausea measured on a scale of 0-10 with 0 = no nausea, 10 = nausea as bad as it can be.
- 273

The study populations in Table 8 consisted mainly of women undergoing laparoscopic procedures.

276 **Pediatric Studies:** One double-blind, placebo-controlled, US study was performed in 351 277 male and female outpatients (2 to 12 years of age) who received general anesthesia with nitrous 278 oxide and no prophylactic antiemetics. Surgical procedures were unrestricted. Patients who 279 experienced two or more emetic episodes within 2 hours following discontinuation of nitrous 280 oxide were randomized to either single I.V. doses of ondansetron (0.1 mg/kg for pediatric 281 patients weighing 40 kg or less, 4 mg for pediatric patients weighing more than 40 kg) or placebo 282 administered over at least 30 seconds. Ondansetron was significantly more effective than placebo 283 in preventing further episodes of nausea and vomiting. The results of the study are summarized 284 in Table 9.

285

Treatment Response	Ondansetron	Placebo	
Over 24 Hours	n (%)	n (%)	P Value
Number of patients 0 Emetic episodes	180 96 (53%)	171 29 (17%)	≤0.001
Failure*	84 (47%)	142 (83%)	

286 Table 9. Prevention of Further Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting in Pediatric Patients

- 287 * Failure was one or more emetic episodes, rescued, or withdrawn.
- 288

Repeat Dosing in Adults: In patients who do not achieve adequate control of postoperative
 nausea and vomiting following a single, prophylactic, preinduction, I.V. dose of ondansetron

4 mg, administration of a second I.V. dose of ondansetron 4 mg postoperatively does not provide

additional control of nausea and vomiting.

293 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

- Prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of emetogenic
 cancer chemotherapy, including high-dose cisplatin. Efficacy of the 32-mg single dose
 beyond 24 hours in these patients has not been established.
- 297 2. Prevention of postoperative nausea and/or vomiting. As with other antiemetics, routine
- 297 2. Prevention of postoperative nausea and/or volinting. As with other antienterics, routine 298 prophylaxis is not recommended for patients in whom there is little expectation that nausea
- and/or vomiting will occur postoperatively. In patients where nausea and/or vomiting must be
- 300 avoided postoperatively, ZOFRAN Injection is recommended even where the incidence of
- 301 postoperative nausea and/or vomiting is low. For patients who do not receive prophylactic
- 302 ZOFRAN Injection and experience nausea and/or vomiting postoperatively, ZOFRAN
- 303 Injection may be given to prevent further episodes (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

304 CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZOFRAN Injection and ZOFRAN Injection Premixed are contraindicated for patients known
 to have hypersensitivity to the drug.

307 WARNINGS

308 Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in patients who have exhibited hypersensitivity 309 to other selective 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists.

310 **PRECAUTIONS**

- Ondansetron is not a drug that stimulates gastric or intestinal peristalsis. It should not be used instead of nasogastric suction. The use of ondansetron in patients following abdominal surgery or in patients with chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting may mask a progressive ileus and/or
- 314 gastric distention.
- 315 **Drug Interactions:** Ondansetron does not itself appear to induce or inhibit the cytochrome
- 316 P-450 drug-metabolizing enzyme system of the liver (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY,
- 317 Pharmacokinetics). Because ondansetron is metabolized by hepatic cytochrome P-450
- 318 drug-metabolizing enzymes (CYP3A4, CYP2D6, CYP1A2), inducers or inhibitors of these
- 319 enzymes may change the clearance and, hence, the half-life of ondansetron. On the basis of
- 320 limited available data, no dosage adjustment is recommended for patients on these drugs.
- 321 *Phenytoin, Carbamazepine, and Rifampicin:* In patients treated with potent inducers of
 322 CYP3A4 (i.e., phenytoin, carbamazepine, and rifampicin), the clearance of ondansetron was
 323 significantly increased and ondansetron blood concentrations were decreased. However, on the
- basis of available data, no dosage adjustment for ondansetron is recommended for patients on
 these drugs.^{1,3}
- Tramadol: Although no pharmacokinetic drug interaction between ondansetron and tramadol
 has been observed, data from 2 small studies indicate that ondansetron may be associated with an
 increase in patient controlled administration of tramadol.^{4,5}
- 329 **Chemotherapy:** Tumor response to chemotherapy in the P 388 mouse leukemia model is 330 not affected by ondansetron. In humans, carmustine, etoposide, and cisplatin do not affect the 331 pharmacokinetics of ondansetron.
- In a crossover study in 76 pediatric patients, I.V. ondansetron did not increase blood levels of high-dose methotrexate.
- 334 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenic effects were not
- 335 seen in 2-year studies in rats and mice with oral ondansetron doses up to 10 and 30 mg/kg per
- day, respectively. Ondansetron was not mutagenic in standard tests for mutagenicity. Oral
- administration of ondansetron up to 15 mg/kg per day did not affect fertility or general
- 338 reproductive performance of male and female rats.
- **Pregnancy:** *Teratogenic Effects:* Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies have been
- 340 performed in pregnant rats and rabbits at I.V. doses up to 4 mg/kg per day and have revealed no
- 341 evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to ondansetron. There are, however, no
- 342 adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies

- 343 are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if 344 clearly needed.
- 345 **Nursing Mothers:** Ondansetron is excreted in the breast milk of rats. It is not known whether
- 346 ondansetron is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution
- 347 should be exercised when ondansetron is administered to a nursing woman.
- 348 **Pediatric Use:** Little information is available about dosage in pediatric patients under 2 years
- 349 of age (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section for use in pediatric patients 4 to
- 350 18 years of age receiving cancer chemotherapy or for use in pediatric patients 2 to 12 years of age
- 351 receiving general anesthesia).
- 352 Geriatric Use: Of the total number of subjects enrolled in cancer chemotherapy-induced and
- 353 postoperative nausea and vomiting in US- and foreign-controlled clinical trials, 862 were 65
- 354 years of age and over. No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between
- 355 these subjects and younger subjects, and other reported clinical experience has not identified
- differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some
- 357 older individuals cannot be ruled out. Dosage adjustment is not needed in patients over the age of
- 358 65 (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

359 ADVERSE REACTIONS

360 **Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting:** The adverse events in Table 10 have been

- reported in individuals receiving ondansetron at a dosage of three 0.15-mg/kg doses or as a single
- 362 32-mg dose in clinical trials. These patients were receiving concomitant chemotherapy, primarily
- 363 cisplatin, and I.V. fluids. Most were receiving a diuretic.
- 364

Table 10. Principal Adverse Events in Comparative Trials

	Number of Patients With Event			
	ZOFRAN	ZOFRAN		
	Injection	Injection		
	0.15 mg/kg x 3	32 mg x 1	Metoclopramide	Placebo
	n = 419	n = 220	n = 156	n = 34
Diarrhea	16%	8%	44%	18%
Headache	17%	25%	7%	15%
Fever	8%	7%	5%	3%
Akathisia	0%	0%	6%	0%
Acute dystonic reactions*	0%	0%	5%	0%

366 * See Neurological.

367

368 The following have been reported during controlled clinical trials:

369 *Cardiovascular:* Rare cases of angina (chest pain), electrocardiographic alterations,

370 hypotension, and tachycardia have been reported. In many cases, the relationship to ZOFRAN

371 Injection was unclear.

- Gastrointestinal: Constipation has been reported in 11% of chemotherapy patients
 receiving multiday ondansetron.
- 374 *Hepatic:* In comparative trials in cisplatin chemotherapy patients with normal baseline values
 375 of aspartate transaminase (AST) and alanine transaminase (ALT), these enzymes have been
- reported to exceed twice the upper limit of normal in approximately 5% of patients. The
- 377 increases were transient and did not appear to be related to dose or duration of therapy. On repeat
- 378 exposure, similar transient elevations in transaminase values occurred in some courses, but
- 379 symptomatic hepatic disease did not occur.
- 380 *Integumentary:* Rash has occurred in approximately 1% of patients receiving ondansetron.
- 381 *Neurological:* There have been rare reports consistent with, but not diagnostic of,
- extrapyramidal reactions in patients receiving ZOFRAN Injection, and rare cases of grand mal
 seizure. The relationship to ZOFRAN was unclear.
- 384 Other: Rare cases of hypokalemia have been reported. The relationship to ZOFRAN Injection
 385 was unclear.
- **Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting:** The adverse events in Table 11 have been reported in
- $\geq 2\%$ of adults receiving ondansetron at a dosage of 4 mg I.V. over 2 to 5 minutes in clinical
- trials. Rates of these events were not significantly different in the ondansetron and placebo
- 389 groups. These patients were receiving multiple concomitant perioperative and postoperative 390 medications.
- 391

Table 11. Adverse Events in ≥2% of Adults Receiving Ondansetron at a Dosage of 4 mg I.V.

	ZOFRAN Injection	
	4 mg I.V.	Placebo
	n = 547 patients	n = 547 patients
Headache	92 (17%)	77 (14%)
Dizziness	67 (12%)	88 (16%)
Musculoskeletal pain	57 (10%)	59 (11%)
Drowsiness/sedation	44 (8%)	37 (7%)
Shivers	38 (7%)	39 (7%)
Malaise/fatigue	25 (5%)	30 (5%)
Injection site reaction	21 (4%)	18 (3%)
Urinary retention	17 (3%)	15 (3%)
Postoperative CO ₂ -related pain*	12 (2%)	16 (3%)
Chest pain (unspecified)	12 (2%)	15 (3%)
Anxiety/agitation	11 (2%)	16 (3%)
Dysuria	11 (2%)	9 (2%)
Hypotension	10 (2%)	12 (2%)
Fever	10 (2%)	6(1%)
Cold sensation	9 (2%)	8 (1%)
Pruritus	9 (2%)	3 (<1%)
Paresthesia	9 (2%)	2 (<1%)

393 over 2 to 5 Minutes in Clinical Trials

³⁹⁴ * Sites of pain included abdomen, stomach, joints, rib cage, shoulder.

395

396 Pediatric Use: The adverse events in Table 12 were the most commonly reported adverse 397 events in pediatric patients receiving ondansetron (a single 0.1-mg/kg dose for pediatric patients 398 weighing 40 kg or less, or 4 mg for pediatric patients weighing more than 40 kg) administered 399 intravenously over at least 30 seconds. Rates of these events were not significantly different in 400 the ondansetron and placebo groups. These patients were receiving multiple concomitant 401 perioperative and postoperative medications.

402

	Ondansetron	Placebo
Adverse Event	n = 755 Patients	n = 731 Patients
Wound problem	80 (11%)	86 (12%)
Anxiety/agitation	49 (6%)	47 (6%)
Headache	44 (6%)	43 (6%)
Drowsiness/sedation	41 (5%)	56 (8%)
Pyrexia	32 (4%)	41 (6%)

403 Table 12. Frequency of Adverse Events From Controlled Studies in Pediatric Patients

404

405 **Observed During Clinical Practice:** In addition to adverse events reported from clinical 406 trials, the following events have been identified during post-approval use of intravenous formulations of ZOFRAN. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown 407 408 size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. The events have been chosen for inclusion due to a 409 combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to 410 ZOFRAN. 411 **Cardiovascular:** Arrhythmias (including ventricular and supraventricular tachycardia, 412 premature ventricular contractions, and atrial fibrillation), bradycardia, electrocardiographic 413 alterations (including second-degree heart block and ST segment depression), palpitations, and 414 syncope. 415 **General:** Flushing. Rare cases of hypersensitivity reactions, sometimes severe (e.g., 416 anaphylaxis/anaphylactoid reactions, angioedema, bronchospasm, cardiopulmonary arrest, 417 hypotension, laryngeal edema, laryngospasm, shock, shortness of breath, stridor) have also been 418 reported. 419 Hepatobiliary: Liver enzyme abnormalities have been reported. Liver failure and death have 420 been reported in patients with cancer receiving concurrent medications including potentially 421 hepatotoxic cytotoxic chemotherapy and antibiotics. The etiology of the liver failure is unclear. 422 Local Reactions: Pain, redness, and burning at site of injection. 423 Lower Respiratory: Hiccups 424 **Neurological:** Oculogyric crisis, appearing alone, as well as with other dystonic reactions. 425 **Skin:** Urticaria 426 **Special Senses:** Transient blurred vision, in some cases associated with abnormalities of 427 accommodation, and transient dizziness during or shortly after I.V. infusion. 428 DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE 429 Animal studies have shown that ondansetron is not discriminated as a benzodiazepine nor 430 does it substitute for benzodiazepines in direct addiction studies.

431 **OVERDOSAGE**

432 There is no specific antidote for ondansetron overdose. Patients should be managed with

433 appropriate supportive therapy. Individual doses as large as 150 mg and total daily dosages

- 434 (three doses) as large as 252 mg have been administered intravenously without significant
- 435 adverse events. These doses are more than 10 times the recommended daily dose.
- In addition to the adverse events listed above, the following events have been described in the
- 437 setting of ondansetron overdose: "Sudden blindness" (amaurosis) of 2 to 3 minutes' duration plus
- 438 severe constipation occurred in one patient that was administered 72 mg of ondansetron
- 439 intravenously as a single dose. Hypotension (and faintness) occurred in another patient that took
- 440 48 mg of oral ondansetron. Following infusion of 32 mg over only a 4-minute period, a
- 441 vasovagal episode with transient second-degree heart block was observed. In all instances, the
- 442 events resolved completely.

443 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 444 **Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting:** The recommended I.V.
- dosage of ZOFRAN is a single 32-mg dose or three 0.15-mg/kg doses. A single 32-mg dose is
- infused over 15 minutes beginning 30 minutes before the start of emetogenic chemotherapy. Therecommended infusion rate should not be exceeded (see OVERDOSAGE). With the three-dose
- recommended infusion rate should not be exceeded (see OVERDOSAGE). With the three-dose
 (0.15-mg/kg) regimen, the first dose is infused over 15 minutes beginning 30 minutes before the
- 449 start of emetogenic chemotherapy. Subsequent doses (0.15 mg/kg) are administered 4 and
- 450 8 hours after the first dose of ZOFRAN.
- ZOFRAN Injection should not be mixed with solutions for which physical and chemical
 compatibility have not been established. In particular, this applies to alkaline solutions as a
 precipitate may form.
- 454 *Vial:* DILUTE BEFORE USE. ZOFRAN Injection should be diluted in 50 mL of 5%
 455 Dextrose Injection or 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection before administration.
- Flexible Plastic Container: ZOFRAN Injection Premixed, 32 mg in 5% Dextrose, 50 mL,
 REQUIRES NO DILLUTION.
- 458 *Pediatric Use:* On the basis of the limited available information (see CLINICAL TRIALS:
- 459 Pediatric Studies and CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics), the dosage in
- 460 pediatric patients 4 to 18 years of age should be three 0.15-mg/kg doses (see above). Little
- information is available about dosage in pediatric patients 3 years of age and younger.
- 462 *Geriatric Use:* The dosage recommendation is the same as for the general population.
- 463 **Prevention of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting:** The recommended I.V. dosage of
- 464 ZOFRAN for adults is 4 mg **undiluted** administered intravenously in not less than 30 seconds,
- 465 preferably over 2 to 5 minutes, immediately before induction of anesthesia, or postoperatively if
- 466 the patient experiences nausea and/or vomiting occurring shortly after surgery. Alternatively,
- 4 mg undiluted may be administered intramuscularly as a single injection for adults. While
 recommended as a fixed dose for patients weighing more than 40 kg, few patients above 80 kg
- have been studied. In patients who do not achieve adequate control of postoperative nausea and
- 470 vomiting following a single, prophylactic, preinduction, I.V. dose of ondansetron 4 mg,
- administration of a second I.V. dose of 4 mg ondansetron postoperatively does not provide
- 472 additional control of nausea and vomiting.

473 *Vial:* ZOFRAN Injection REQUIRES NO DILUTION FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR
474 POSTOPERATIVE NAUSEA AND VOMITING.

475 *Pediatric Use:* The recommended I.V. dosage of ZOFRAN for pediatric patients (2 to
476 12 years of age) is a single 0.1-mg/kg dose for pediatric patients weighing 40 kg or less, or a
477 single 4-mg dose for pediatric patients weighing more than 40 kg. The rate of administration
478 should not be less than 30 seconds, preferably over 2 to 5 minutes. Little information is available

- 479 about dosage in pediatric patients younger than 2 years of age.
- 480 *Geriatric Use:* The dosage recommendation is the same as for the general population.

481 **Dosage Adjustment for Patients With Impaired Renal Function:** The dosage

- recommendation is the same as for the general population. There is no experience beyondfirst-day administration of ondansetron.
- 484 **Dosage Adjustment for Patients With Impaired Hepatic Function:** In patients with
- 485 severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh² score of 10 or greater), a single maximal daily dose of
- 486 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 ofondansetron.
- 489 **ZOFRAN** Injection Premixed in Flexible Plastic Containers: Instructions for Use:
- 490 **To Open:** Tear outer wrap at notch and remove solution container. Check for minute leaks by
- 491 squeezing container firmly. If leaks are found, discard unit as sterility may be impaired.
- 492 *Preparation for Administration:* Use aseptic technique.
- 493 1. Close flow control clamp of administration set.
- 494 2. Remove cover from outlet port at bottom of container.
- 495 3. Insert piercing pin of administration set into port with a twisting motion until the pin is firmly
 496 seated. NOTE: See full directions on administration set carton.
- 497 4. Suspend container from hanger.
- 498 5. Squeeze and release drip chamber to establish proper fluid level in chamber during infusion
 499 of ZOFRAN Injection Premixed.
- 500 6. Open flow control clamp to expel air from set. Close clamp.
- 501 7. Attach set to venipuncture device. If device is not indwelling, prime and make venipuncture.
- 502 8. Perform venipuncture.
- 503 9. Regulate rate of administration with flow control clamp.
- 504 *Caution:* ZOFRAN Injection Premixed in flexible plastic containers is to be administered by 505 I.V. drip infusion only. ZOFRAN Injection Premixed should not be mixed with solutions for
- 506 which physical and chemical compatibility have not been established. In particular, this applies
- 506 which physical and chemical compatibility have not been established. In particular, this applies
- 507 to alkaline solutions as a precipitate may form. If used with a primary I.V. fluid system, the
- 508 primary solution should be discontinued during ZOFRAN Injection Premixed infusion.
- 509 Do not administer unless solution is clear and container is undamaged.
- 510 *Warning:* Do not use flexible plastic container in series connections.
- 511 **Stability:** ZOFRAN Injection is stable at room temperature under normal lighting conditions for
- 512 48 hours after dilution with the following I.V. fluids: 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 5%

- 513 Dextrose Injection, 5% Dextrose and 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 5% Dextrose and 0.45%
- 514 Sodium Chloride Injection, and 3% Sodium Chloride Injection.
- 515 Although ZOFRAN Injection is chemically and physically stable when diluted as
- recommended, sterile precautions should be observed because diluents generally do not contain
- 517 preservative. After dilution, do not use beyond 24 hours.
- 518 **Note:** Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and
- 519 discoloration before administration whenever solution and container permit.
- 520 **Precaution:** Occasionally, ondansetron precipitates at the stopper/vial interface in vials stored
- 521 upright. Potency and safety are not affected. If a precipitate is observed, resolubilize by shaking
- 522 the vial vigorously.

523 HOW SUPPLIED

- 524 **ZOFRAN Injection**, 2 mg/mL, is supplied as follows:
- 525 NDC 0173-0442-02 2-mL single-dose vials (Carton of 5)
- 526 NDC 0173-0442-00 20-mL multidose vials (Singles)
- 527 Store between 2° and 30° C (36° and 86° F). Protect from light.
- 528 **ZOFRAN Injection Premixed**, 32 mg/50 mL, in 5% Dextrose, contains no preservatives and 529 is supplied as a sterile, premixed solution for I.V. administration in single-dose, flexible plastic 530 containers (NDC 0173-0461-00) (case of 6).
- 531 Store between 2° and 30°C (36° and 86°F). Protect from light. Avoid excessive heat.
- 532 **Protect from freezing.**

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- 542

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

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- 546
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- 548 Manufactured for GlaxoSmithKline
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