Ondansetron (Zofran®)

**Classification:**
Anitmetic

**Actions/Pharmacology:**
Blocks the effects of serotonin at 5-HT3-receptor sites (selective antagonist) located in vagal nerve terminals and the chemoreceptor trigger zone in the CNS.

**Indications:**
Nausea and vomiting, regardless of mechanism
Prior to morphine administration, consider

**Contraindications:**
Age < 4 years
Parkinson's patients receiving apomorphine

**Side and Adverse effects:**
Headache
Sedation
Constipation
Diarrhea
Transient blindness
May cause transient dizziness after IV administration
May cause prolonged QT interval and/or Torsade de Pointes
May cause transient oculogyric crisis and dystonic reactions

**Adult Administration:**
4mg IM or orally dissolving tablet (ODT)
or
4mg slow IVP over 2 to 5 minutes
May repeat any route one time in 10 minutes with SFTP or Base Hospital order
Maximum adult dose 8mg

**Pediatric Administration:**
Must be 4 years of age and older
4mg IM or ODT
or
4mg slow IVP over 2 to 5 minutes
Maximum pediatric dose 4mg. No repeat dose.
For patients who weigh less than 40kg use only ODT route

**Onset:**
Rapid
Peak effect
   Intravenous - 10 minutes
   Intramuscular - 40 minutes
   Oral - 2 hours
Duration - 4 hours

**Interactions:**
When taken with apomorphine, may cause hypotension and ALOC

**Precautions:**
Tablet should not be handled with moist or wet hands
May cause prolonged QT interval and/or Torsade de Pointes – Patients receiving IV administration should be placed on cardiac monitor

**Special Considerations:**
Tablet should be placed onto tongue and allowed to dissolve