FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking ondansetron safely

Zofran · prevents and treats nausea and vomiting

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1 Handling the dissolving tablet wrong

Peel back the foil, place it on your tongue, and swallow with saliva — no water needed.

2 Missing a heart rhythm risk

Never with apomorphine. Tell us about low potassium, magnesium, or heart failure.

3 Missing serotonin syndrome risk

Combining it with other serotonin medicines raises the risk of a serious reaction.

How to take the dissolving tablet

- With **dry hands**, peel back the foil backing — **never push the tablet through it.**
- Place it on top of your tongue right away. It dissolves in seconds — swallow with your saliva. **No water needed.**
- Regular tablets and the dissolving kind work the same way; your doctor may switch between them.

Heart rhythm (mistake #2)

- Ondansetron can affect your heart's rhythm (QT prolongation). **Never** take it with apomorphine — that combination can cause a dangerous drop in blood pressure and loss of consciousness.
- Tell us about low potassium or magnesium, heart failure, a slow heartbeat, or other heart-rhythm medicines.

Serotonin syndrome (mistake #3)

- Combining it with antidepressants, migraine medicines, fentanyl, lithium, or tramadol raises the risk of a serious reaction.
- Don't exceed your prescribed dose. For chemotherapy, a single dose can be up to **24 mg**, but that's a prescriber's call. With **severe liver disease**, the daily dose is capped at **8 mg**.

IMPORTANT

Heart rhythm changes: tell your doctor right away if you feel a change in your heartbeat, feel lightheaded, or faint.

Call your doctor right away for

- Agitation, confusion, or hallucinations; a fast heartbeat, high blood pressure, sweating, or fever; muscle twitching, tremor, or stiffness — signs of serotonin syndrome
- Ongoing bloating, stomach pain, or no bowel movements after surgery or with chemotherapy — ondansetron can mask these

The dissolving tablet contains phenylalanine, which matters if you have phenylketonuria (PKU).

EMERGENCY: CALL 911

Hives, swelling of your face or throat, trouble breathing, or a fast or uneven heartbeat with fainting: stop ondansetron and get medical help right away.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.
Source: FDA prescribing information for ondansetron orally disintegrating tablets (rev. 10/2026) and tablets (rev. 10/2026). ZOFRAN is a trademark of its owner.

Scan for the full guide