ACTIONS

Zofran is a selective 5-HT3 receptor 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.

Indications

1. Nausea and or vomiting

Contraindications

1. In patients with known hypersensitivity to the drug.

Administration

1. Adult: 4 mg slow IV push or IM (slow push over 3 minutes, undiluted). (Initial dose should be appropriately reduced to 2 mg in elderly, debilitated and other poor risk patients. Patients with abnormal liver functions.)

2. Pediatric: 4 mg slow IV or IM if greater than 40 kg.

Side effects

1. Headache
2. Dizziness
3. Hypotension
4. Tachycardia

5. Tonic Clonic Seizures

6. Angina

Precautions

1. Fluids and other countermeasures to manage hypotension should be readily available.

2. Initial dose should be appropriately reduced (2 mg) in elderly, debilitated and other poor risk patients. (Patients with abnormal liver functions.)

3. The safety of Zofran in children under the age of two has not been established.