

Patient Information Leaflet

Olanzapine Orodispersible tablets to treat nausea, vomiting, agitation or delirium

Name of the medicine:

Olanzapine

What is it for?

Olanzapine is licensed for use as an antipsychotic medication (medicines used for treating some mental health conditions). It has also been shown to help with feeling sick (nausea) and vomiting, and to help with agitation and acute confusion (delirium).

Most medicines available in the UK have a licence for use. The licence describes the ways in which the medicine can be given and the conditions it can be used to treat. In order to get a licence, the manufacturer of the medicine has to show that it is safe and made to a high standard.

Use of olanzapine to help with feeling sick and vomiting is outside its licence. Medicines used in palliative care are quite often used this way and there is experience and research to support this use. The person who prescribed your medicine will have considered carefully the benefits for you.

Information on this is not included in the information leaflet supplied with the medicine.

We are giving you this extra leaflet to tell you about the reason(s) why you are taking this medicine and to highlight other information. This should be read along with the manufacturer's patient information leaflet.

What form(s) of this medicine are there and how is it usually taken?

- Olanzapine is available as an "orodispersible tablet". This is the technical name for a tablet which is placed on or under your tongue and allowed to dissolve. It is also available as a tablet which is swallowed whole with water.
- The orodispersible tablet form will usually be given to help vomiting.
- The usual dose is 2.5mg (the 5mg tablet may be halved and the other half safely disposed of). This can be taken every 2 to 4 hours when you are feeling sick or vomiting. It can be taken up to a maximum of 4 doses per day (up to 10mg in total in a day).
- The orodispersible tablets may break easily so you should handle the tablets carefully as follows:
 1. Keep your hands dry. Do not push the tablet out of the pocket.
 2. Separate one blister cell from the strip.
 3. Carefully peel off the backing.
 4. Take the tablet out of the pocket. Half the tablet. You may find it helpful to use a tablet splitter to do this, this can be bought from most pharmacies.
 5. If your mouth is dry, moisten it first with a little water.
 6. Put the half tablet in your mouth. It will dissolve directly on or underneath the tongue.

What are the most common side effects I might experience?

Like all medicines, it is possible you may experience side effects when you take olanzapine. The most common side effects are sleepiness and feeling dizzy or faint especially when getting up from a lying or sitting position. This will usually pass on its own but if it does not, tell your doctor.

Other side effects include restlessness or unusual muscle movements, if you notice this let your doctor or nurse know.

You may experience a dry mouth. Keeping your teeth and mouth clean will help, along with having regular small sips of water.

This medicine may cause constipation. A high fibre diet and fluids can help with this if possible. If not, your doctor will be able to give you another medicine to help.

You should consult your doctor if these side effects become troublesome.

What other information should I know about this medicine?

Alcohol

It is best to avoid alcohol as it may make you feel very sleepy.

Driving

There is a risk of feeling drowsy when you take olanzapine tablets. If this happens do not drive. You should also not operate any machinery if you feel drowsy.

Any other important information?

Olanzapine can be an effective anti-sickness medication but it may not help with all types of nausea and vomiting. Other treatments may be needed and can be discussed with your doctor or nurse.

Tell the doctor if you or someone else in your family has a history of blood clots, as medicines like these have been associated with the formation of blood clots.

Olanzapine tablets should not be taken if you have been previously diagnosed with eye problems such as certain kinds of glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye).

If you have Parkinson's disease (a condition in which parts of the brain become progressively damaged over many years) olanzapine tablets may worsen your symptoms.

Olanzapine orodispersible tablets contain aspartame, which is a source of phenylalanine (one of the building blocks of protein called amino acids found in many foods). This may be harmful for people with phenylketonuria (a rare condition where people can't break down phenylalanine).

Your medication needs to be kept in a safe place out of the reach of children.

It needs to be stored in the original container. Return unused medication to a pharmacy.