



Just the Facts...

Granisetron – What You Need to Know

What is granisetron?

This medication is in a class of medications called antiemetics that are used to treat nausea and vomiting that may be due to a wide variety of causes, from the stomach flu to chemotherapy. It also can be used to prevent nausea and vomiting that may occur after exposure to radiation hazards, such as damage to either a nuclear submarine or a nuclear missile. Granisetron is to be given under the direction of your healthcare provider.

What does the military require?

There is no specific military requirement for this class of medications. It may be prescribed as needed to prevent nausea and vomiting at any time.

How do I take granisetron?

- Granisetron tablets may be taken without regard to food; however, best absorption occurs if taken on an empty stomach.
- Take with a full glass of water.
- Drink plenty of fluids while taking this medication.
- Do not share this medication with others.

Are there any side effects?

- The most common adverse effects from granisetron are constipation and headache.
- To reduce the likelihood of constipation, drink plenty of fluids when taking granisetron.
- Less common adverse effects include tiredness or weakness, diarrhea, dizziness or drowsiness, trouble sleeping, and unusual taste in the mouth. These adverse effects tend to go away during continued treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine.
- More severe allergic reactions can include irregular heartbeat, shortness of breath, fainting, chest pain, skin rash, hives, and itching. However, this generally occurs only in people with known allergic reactions to this class of medications (see below).
- Should side effects become bothersome or continue for several days, see your healthcare provider.
- It is generally safe to take an over-the-counter pain medication for other symptoms, such as headaches or sore throat, when taking granisetron.

Is there any reason I shouldn't take granisetron?

- Before taking this medication, notify your doctor if you've ever had an allergic reaction to granisetron, dolasetron, or ondansetron. Also tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other substances at all, such as foods, preservatives, or dyes.
- Before taking this drug, tell your doctor about any over-the-counter or prescription drugs you are taking. Although there have been no clinically significant drug interactions reported in patients taking granisetron, providers should be made aware of all medications patients are taking to screen for other potential problems.

What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?

- Granisetron has not been studied in pregnant women. However, granisetron has not been shown to cause birth defects or other problems in animal studies. Discuss the risks and benefits with your health care provider.
- It is not known whether granisetron passes into breast milk. Mothers who are taking this medicine and wish to breast-feed should discuss this with their health care provider.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you should miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered unless it is almost time for the next dose. If it is nearly time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do NOT "double-up" the dose.

Where can I get more information?

- Health care provider at your military treatment facility.

Deployment Medication Information Sheets (DMIS) are provided by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM). Written for soldiers and their families, they provide basic information on deployment medications that are intended as guidance only; consult your health care provider for more information.