ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
Ondansetron	
Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Administration	Monitoring	Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Restrictions

Formulary: Unrestricted

Medication Class

$5HT_3$ antagonist

Presentation

Wafer: 4mg, 8mg

Tablet: 4mg

Ampoule: 4mg/2mL

Storage

Wafer, tablet: Store at room temperature, below 25°C.

Ampoule: Store at room temperature, below 25°C. Protect from light.

Dose

Nausea and Vomiting in Pregnancy / Hyperemesis Gravidarum (fourth line)

Oral/IV:

4-8mg every 12 hours when required. Maximum 16mg in 24 hours.

Note: Ondansetron should only be used if other antiemetics are ineffective or poorly tolerated.

Post-Operative Nausea and Vomiting (PONV)

Oral/IV:

4mg every 6 hours when required. Maximum 20mg in 24 hours.

Mild Pruritis as a Side Effect of Epidural Opioids

Oral/IV

4mg every 6 hours when required.

NOTE: Reduce maximum dose to 8mg in patients with severe hepatic impairment or in patients above 75 years of age.

Administration

Oral – Wafer

Place on top of the tongue to dissolve and then swallow.

IV Injection (for doses up to 8mg)

Administration: Inject SLOWLY over at least 30 seconds and preferably over 3 to 5 minutes.

IV Infusion (for doses above 8mg up to 16mg, and for all doses in patients >75 years)

Step 1 dilution: Dilute with 50mL of Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Step 2 Administration: Infuse over at least 15 minutes.

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative

2nd Trimester: Monitoring required

3rd Trimester: Monitoring required

There appears to be an increase in oral clefts from a background risk of 11 cases per 10000 to 14 cases per 10000 births with ondansetron. Ondansetron should be considered as a non-first line agent for the treatment of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy. An alternative medication should be used in first trimester when possible.

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

Nausea and Vomiting in Pregnancy

Hyperemesis Gravidarum

Palliative Care

Neuraxial Analgesia (intranet only)

References

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