

**Classification**

Atypical anti-psychotic

**LA County Prehospital Indications**

Agitation in a cooperative patient (able to self-administer medication)

**Other Common Indications (Not authorized for EMS administration in LA County)**

None

**Adult Dose**

**10 mg ODT given ONCE**

**Pediatric Dose**

**10mg ODT given ONCE** for pediatric patients longer than the length-based resuscitation tape

**Mechanism of Action**

2<sup>nd</sup> generation anti-psychotic. Antagonizes serotonin 5-HT, dopamine, histamine and alpha-1 receptors. The precise mechanism is unknown but thought to be mediated through serotonin 5-HT and dopamine receptor sites.

**Pharmacokinetics**

Onset is 10-15 min; duration is hours

**Contraindications**

Pregnancy  
Dementia related psychosis  
Patients ≤14 years AND on the length-based resuscitation tape  
Ondansetron co-administration (QT prolongation)

**Interactions**

CNS Depressant (enhances sedative effect)  
Blood pressure lowering agents (enhances hypotensive effect)  
QT prolonging drugs (additive prolongation of QT may produce torsade de pointes/polymorphic ventricular tachycardia)

**Adverse Effects**

Dry mouth  
Dystonic reaction  
Drowsiness  
GI upset  
Headache  
Orthostatic hypotension  
Sedation

**Prehospital Considerations**

- Caution use in patients >70 years of age.
- May cause prolonged QT interval. Caution in patients with known prolonged QT syndrome or recent/simultaneous use of other QT-prolonging drugs.
- Should not be administered in patients known to be pregnant, regardless of gestational age.
- Patients with known schizophrenia or bipolar disorder that are symptomatic (i.e., hearing voices, paranoid thoughts) may benefit most for symptom management. May be administered safely for undifferentiated agitation.

- Monitor airway and sedation if concomitant CNS depressant use is suspected as depressant effects may be enhanced.
- Look Alike; Sound Alike medications are defined as those medications when written or verbally pronounced have the potential to lead to a medication error by mimicking the appearance or sound of another medication. The drug names Olanzapine and Ondansetron are similar enough to cause confusion. A second check of drug names should be performed before administration.