

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

A second-generation antipsychotic that blocks serotonin (5-HT), dopamine, histamine, and alpha-1 receptors. Though the exact mechanism is unclear, its sedating effects are primarily due to serotonin and dopamine receptor blockade in the brain.

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.