

## Ranitidine

*Zantac, Ranihexal, Ausran 150mg and 300mg tablets  
Zantac 150mg effervescent tablets  
Zantac 150mg/10mL syrup  
Other brands may be available.*

### What does it do?

A H<sub>2</sub>-antagonist that decreases the amount of acid produced by the stomach reducing the symptoms of reflux.

### How is it taken?

**Ranitidine is usually taken once or twice a day.**

The effervescent tablet should be dispersed in at least 30 mL of water and allowed to fully dissolve before being given. Discard any remaining solution after the dose and use a fresh tablet each dose, unless otherwise instructed. Your doctor will decide how long you or your child should continue taking ranitidine.

If you forget to give a dose, give the missed dose as soon as you remember, then give the next dose at the time it is normally due. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Do not try to make up for missed doses by giving more than one dose at a time.

### Where do I get it?

May be dispensed by your **local pharmacy** on presentation of a valid PBS prescription written by your local doctor or a doctor at RCH.

May be dispensed at the **RCH pharmacy** department on presentation of a valid RCH PBS prescription written by a doctor at RCH.

Smaller quantities of tablets are also available without a prescription from your local pharmacy.

### How do I store it?

All medicines should be stored out of the reach of children.

Tablets and syrup should be stored at room temperature (below 30°C) away from humidity.

This medication should be kept in its original packaging until it is time to take them.

### What side-effects may I experience?

All medicines can cause some side effects. If they occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious. Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you think you or your child is experiencing any side effects or allergic reactions from this medicine that are troublesome or ongoing, even if the problem is not listed below. Some side effects can occur if you take this medicine with certain other medicines, including over-the-counter or herbal medicines. Always tell your pharmacist about any medicines you or your child are taking.

**Some of the side effects that may occur include:**

Headache, joint or muscle pains, dizziness, depression, constipation.

**Stop giving ranitidine and tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:**

Wheezing, chest pain or tightness, severe stomach pain or a change in the type of pain, yellow colouring of the skin or eyes (jaundice), confusion, general illness associated with weight loss, fever.

**Stop using this medicine and contact a doctor or emergency department if signs of an allergic reaction occur.**

**These may include:**

An unexplained increase in wheezing, difficulty breathing or swallowing, fainting, swelling or bleeding of the eyelids, lips or tongue, severe itchy or blistering rash (hives).

The information contained in this leaflet is intended to support not replace discussion with your doctor or health care professionals.

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THIS MEDICINE

For further information, contact The Royal Children's Hospital Drug Information Centre on 03 9345 5208.

The authors of these medicine information handouts have made considerable effort to ensure the information is accurate, up to date and easily understood.

The Royal Children's Hospital accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies, information perceived as misleading, or the success of any treatment regimen detailed in the handouts.