

## ***About your medication***

# **RANITIDINE**

(Zantac®, Rani-2®, Ausran®, Ulcaid®  
150mg and 300mg tablets,  
Zantac® mixture 15mg/mL,  
150mg effervescent tablet)

*Other brands may be available*

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## WHAT IS RANITIDINE?

Ranitidine is from a group of medications known as histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists.

## WHAT IS IT FOR?

It is used to treat gastric ulcers, duodenal ulcers, gastrinoma (Zollinger-Ellison syndrome), reflux oesophagitis and gastro-oesophageal reflux (discomfort mainly in infants and children caused when stomach contents are brought up continually after feeding). It is also sometimes used to protect the stomach from ulcers when taking certain medications (e.g. steroids).

## HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people.

Measure the syrup accurately with an oral syringe or measuring cup/metric spoon.

Effervescent tablets should be placed in at least half a glass of water (about 75mL). Allow the tablets to dissolve before giving the liquid. Swirl the glass if necessary. The solution can then be kept for 24 hours at room temperature if giving an aliquot of this solution. The taste may change and not be as pleasant.

Effervescent tablets may be dissolved in 15mL if for immediate use only. Discard remaining solution. Do not break these tablets.

The mixture should not be diluted or mixed with any other liquids.

Ranitidine can be taken either with food or on an empty stomach.

## WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medication it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take the missed dose if it is close to the next one; just take the next dose as normal. **Do not double up on any doses.**

## STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep Ranitidine locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

## USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

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Care must be taken when using Ranitidine with some other medications. Check with your child's doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop.

Do not take:

- antacids within 1 hour before or 1 hour after taking ranitidine
- sucralfate within 2 hours after taking ranitidine

Talk to your child's doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

### **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Side effects can occur while taking Ranitidine. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your child's doctor.

#### **Less serious side effects include:**

- diarrhoea
- nausea
- constipation
- drowsiness or dizziness
- headache

**More Serious** (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- irregular heartbeat
- unexplained sore throat, fever, chills or malaise
- abnormal bleeding or easy bruising

**Allergic reaction** (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT**



**Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard  
on 03 9345 5522**

**OR**

**Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492  
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT  
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26  
(24 hour service)**

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.