

granisetron basics

Helps prevent nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy or radiation treatment granisetron is a safe and effective medication used for preventing nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy and radiation, but it can be very expensive.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take granisetron 1 hour before receiving chemotherapy on the day of treatment.
- granisetron only helps prevent nausea and vomiting so if you are already having symptoms you may need to take a different kind of medication.
- Don't start taking any other new medications unless they are approved by your doctor.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Serotonin syndrome

granisetron can cause serotonin syndrome, a rare but serious problem caused by abnormally high levels of serotonin, which is a chemical messenger found in the brain. You have a higher risk of experiencing serotonin syndrome if you also take other medications that increase serotonin levels such as certain classes of anti-depressants like SSRI's. Symptoms of serotonin syndrome include agitation, mental confusion, hallucinations, high fever, fast heartbeat, muscle stiffness, tremors, and sweating. Get medical help right away and stop taking granisetron if you experience any of those symptoms.

Effects on heart

granisetron can cause irregular heartbeats that may be life-threatening. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if it feels like your heart is beating really fast or you experience palpitations while taking granisetron.

Constipation

granisetron commonly causes constipation for most people who use it. Talk to your doctor right away if you experience difficulty having bowel movements while taking granisetron, especially if you have a history of problems with constipation or had recent abdominal surgery.