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HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use GRANISETRON HYDROCHLORIDE INJECTION, USP safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for GRANISETRON HYDROCHLORIDE INJECTION, USP.

GRANISETRON HYDROCHLORIDE injection USP, for intravenous use

Initial U.S. Approval: 1993

	RECENT MAJOR CHANGES	
Warnings and Precautions (5.4)		08/2014
	INDICATIONS AND USAGE	

Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection, USP is a serotonin-3 (5-HT₃) receptor antagonist indicated for:

- The prevention of nausea and/or vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of emetogenic cancer therapy, including high-dose cisplatin. (1)

	DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION	
Prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (2.1):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommended dosage is 10 mcg/kg intravenously within 30 minutes before initiation of chemotherapy Pediatric patients (2 to 16 years): Recommended dosage is 10 mcg/kg		

	DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Injection 1 mg/mL (free base). (3) Injection 0.1 mg/mL (free base). (3)		

	CONTRAINDICATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hypersensitivity to granisetron hydrochloride injection or to any of its components. (4)		

	WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Granisetron hydrochloride does not stimulate gastric or intestinal peristalsis and should not be used instead of nasogastric suction. (5.1) QT prolongation has been reported with granisetron hydrochloride. Use with caution in patients with pre-existing arrhythmias or cardiac conduction disorders. (5.2)		

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS*

- INDICATIONS AND USAGE
- DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION
 - Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting
- DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS
- CONTRAINDICATIONS
- WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS
 - Gastric or Intestinal Peristalsis
 - Cardiovascular Events
 - Hypersensitivity Reactions
 - Serotonin Syndrome
 - Benzyl Alcohol
- ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - Clinical Trials Experience
 - Postmarketing Experience
- DRUG INTERACTIONS

	WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS	
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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION
1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE
Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection, USP is a serotonin-3 (5-HT₃) receptor antagonist indicated for:

- The prevention of nausea and/or vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of emetogenic cancer therapy, including high-dose cisplatin.

	DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION	
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2.1 Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting Adult Patients

The recommended dosage for granisetron hydrochloride injection is 10 mcg/kg administered intravenously within 30 minutes before initiation of chemotherapy, and only on the day(s) chemotherapy is given.

Infusion Preparation

Granisetron hydrochloride injection may be administered intravenously either undiluted over 30 seconds, or diluted with 0.9% Sodium Chloride or 5% Dextrose and infused over 5 minutes.

Stability

Intravenous infusion of granisetron hydrochloride injection should be prepared at the time of administration. However, granisetron hydrochloride injection has been shown to be stable for at least 24 hours when diluted in 0.9% Sodium Chloride or 5% Dextrose and stored at room temperature under normal lighting conditions.

As a general precaution, granisetron hydrochloride injection should not be mixed in solution with other drugs. Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration before administration whenever solution and container permit.

Pediatric Patients

The recommended dose in pediatric patients 2 to 16 years of age is 10 mcg/kg *[see Clinical Studies (14)]*.

• Hypersensitivity reactions, such as anaphylaxis, shortness of breath, hypotension, and urticaria, may occur in patients with known hypersensitivity to other selective 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists. (5.3)

• Serotonin syndrome has been reported with granisetron, alone but particularly with concomitant use of serotogenic drugs. (5.4)

- Contains benzyl alcohol (5.5)

	ADVERSE REACTIONS	
Most common adverse reactions:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (≥3%): Headache, and constipation (6.1)		

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Akorn, Inc. at 1-800-932-5676 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

	DRUG INTERACTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Granisetron hydrochloride injection has been administered safely with benzodiazepines, neuroleptics, and anti-ulcer medications. (7) Does not appear to interact with emetogenic cancer chemotherapies. (7) Inducers or inhibitors of CYP450 enzymes may change the clearance and therefore the half-life of granisetron. (7) Coadministration of granisetron hydrochloride injection with drugs known to prolong the QT interval and/ or are arrhythmogenic may result in clinical consequences. (7)		

	USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pregnancy: Use only if clearly needed. (8.1) Nursing mothers: Caution should be exercised when administered to a nursing woman. (8.3) Pediatric use: Safety and efficacy in pediatric patients have not been established for use in postoperative nausea and vomiting. (8.4) Geriatric use: No differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients were observed in reported clinical experience. (8.5)		

	See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION	
		Rev. 09/2016

	8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS	
	8.1 Pregnancy	
	8.3 Nursing Mothers	
	8.4 Pediatric Use	
	8.5 Geriatric Use	
	10 OVERDOSAGE	
	11 DESCRIPTION	
	12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY	
	12.1 Mechanism of Action	
	12.3 Pharmacokinetics	
	13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY	
	13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility	
	14 CLINICAL STUDIES	
	14.1 Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting	
	16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING	
	17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION	
	*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.	

Pediatric patients under 2 years of age have not been studied.

	3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS	
Single-dose Vials for Injection: 1 mg/mL, 0.1 mg/mL		
Multiple-Use Vials for Injection: 4 mg/4 mL		

	4 CONTRAINDICATIONS	
Granisetron hydrochloride injection is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity (e.g., anaphylaxis, shortness of breath, hypotension, urticaria) to the drug or to any of its components.		

	5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS	
	5.1 Gastric or Intestinal Peristalsis	
Granisetron hydrochloride is not a drug that stimulates gastric or intestinal peristalsis. It should not be used instead of nasogastric suction. The use of granisetron hydrochloride in patients following abdominal surgery or in patients with chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting may mask a progressive ileus and/or gastric distention.		

	5.2 Cardiovascular Events	
An adequate QT assessment has not been conducted, but QT prolongation has been reported with granisetron hydrochloride. Therefore, granisetron hydrochloride should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing arrhythmias or cardiac conduction disorders, as this might lead to clinical consequences. Patients with cardiac disease, on cardio-toxic chemotherapy, with concomitant electrolyte abnormalities and/or on concomitant medications that prolong the QT interval are particularly at risk.		

	5.3 Hypersensitivity Reactions	
Hypersensitivity reactions (e.g., anaphylaxis, shortness of breath, hypotension, urticaria) may occur in patients who have exhibited hypersensitivity to other selective 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonists.		

5.4 Serotonin Syndrome
The development of serotonin syndrome has been reported with 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists. Most reports have been associated with concomitant use of serotonergic drugs (e.g., selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), monoamine oxidase inhibitors, mirtazapine, fentanyl, lithium, tramadol, and intravenous methylene blue). Some of the reported cases were fatal. Serotonin syndrome occurring with overdose of another 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist alone has also been reported. The majority of reports of serotonin syndrome related to 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist use occurred in a post-anesthesia care unit or an infusion center.

Symptoms associated with serotonin syndrome may include the following combination of signs and symptoms: mental status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, delirium, and coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, dizziness, diaphoresis, flushing, hyperthermia), neuromuscular symptoms (e.g., tremor, rigidity, myoclonus, hyperreflexia, incoordination), seizures, with or without gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea). Patients should be monitored for the emergence of serotonin syndrome, especially with concomitant use of granisetron and other serotonergic drugs. If symptoms of serotonin syndrome occur, discontinue granisetron and initiate supportive treatment. Patient should be informed of the increased risk of serotonin syndrome, especially if granisetron is used concomitantly with other serotonergic drugs *[see Drug Interaction (7), Patient Counseling Information (17.4)]*.

5.5 Benzyl Alcohol
Granisetron hydrochloride injection, USP 1 mg/mL contains benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol, a component of granisetron hydrochloride injection, USP 1 mg/mL, has been associated with serious adverse reactions and death, particularly in neonates. The “gasping syndrome,” characterized by central nervous system depression, metabolic acidosis, gasping respirations, and high levels of benzyl alcohol and metabolites in blood and urine, has been associated with benzyl alcohol dosages >99 mg/kg/day in neonates and low birth-weight neonates. Additional symptoms may include gradual neurological deterioration, seizures, intracranial hemorrhage, hematologic abnormalities, skin breakdown, hepatic and renal failure, hypotension, bradycardia, and cardiovascular collapse. Although normal therapeutic doses of this product deliver amounts of benzyl alcohol that are substantially lower than those reported in association with the “gasping syndrome,” the minimum amount of benzyl alcohol at which toxicity may occur is not known. Premature and low birth-weight infants, as well as patients receiving high dosages, may be more likely to develop toxicity. Practitioners administering this and other medications containing benzyl alcohol should consider the combined daily metabolic load of benzyl alcohol from all sources.

	6 ADVERSE REACTIONS	
QT prolongation has been reported with granisetron hydrochloride <i>[see Warnings and Precautions (5.2) and Drug Interactions (7)]</i> .		

	6.1 Clinical Trials Experience	
Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in patients.		

Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting

The following have been reported during controlled clinical trials or in the routine management of patients. The percentage figures are based on clinical trial experience only. Table 1 gives the comparative frequencies of the two most commonly reported adverse reactions (≥3%) in patients receiving granisetron hydrochloride injection, in single-day chemotherapy trials. These patients received chemotherapy, primarily cisplatin, and intravenous fluids during the 24-hour period following granisetron hydrochloride injection administration. Reactions were generally recorded over seven days post-granisetron hydrochloride injection administration.

	Percent of Patients With Event	
	Granisetron Injection 40 mcg/kg (n=1268)	Comparator* (n=422)
Headache	14%	6%
Constipation	3%	3%

*Metoclopramide/dexamethasone and phenothiazines/dexamethasone.

Additional adverse events reported in clinical trials were asthenia, somnolence and diarrhea.

In over 3,000 patients receiving granisetron hydrochloride injection (2 to 160 mcg/kg) in single-day and multiple-day clinical trials with emetogenic cancer therapies, adverse events, other than those adverse reactions listed in Table 1, were observed; attribution of many of these events to granisetron hydrochloride is uncertain.

Hepatic: In comparative trials, mainly with cisplatin regimens, elevations of AST and ALT (>2 times the upper limit of normal) following administration of granisetron hydrochloride injection occurred in 2.8% and 3.3% of patients, respectively. These frequencies were not significantly different from those seen with comparators (AST: 2.1%; ALT: 2.4%).

Cardiovascular: Hypertension (2%); hypotension, arrhythmias such as sinus bradycardia, atrial fibrillation, varying degrees of A-V block, ventricular ectopy including non-sustained tachycardia, and ECG abnormalities have been observed rarely.

Central Nervous System: Agitation, anxiety, CNS stimulation and insomnia were seen in less than 2% of patients. Extrapyrmidal syndrome occurred rarely and only in the presence of other drugs associated with this syndrome.

Hypersensitivity: Rare cases of hypersensitivity reactions, sometimes severe (e.g., anaphylaxis, shortness of breath, hypotension, urticaria) have been reported.

Other: Fever (3%), taste disorder (2%), skin rashes (1%). In multiple-day comparative studies, fever occurred more frequently with granisetron hydrochloride injection (8.6%) than with comparative drugs (3.4%, P <0.014), which usually included dexamethasone.

	6.2 Postmarketing Experience	
The following adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of granisetron hydrochloride. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to granisetron hydrochloride exposure.		
QT prolongation has been reported with granisetron hydrochloride <i>[see Warnings and Precautions (5.2) and Drug Interactions (7)]</i> .		

	7 DRUG INTERACTIONS	
Granisetron does not induce or inhibit the cytochrome P-450 drug-metabolizing enzyme system <i>in vitro</i> . There have been no definitive drug-drug interaction studies to examine pharmacokinetic or pharmacodynamic interaction with other drugs; however, in humans, granisetron hydrochloride injection has been safely administered with drugs representing benzodiazepines, neuroleptics and anti-ulcer medications commonly prescribed with antiemetic treatments. Granisetron hydrochloride injection also does not appear to interact with emetogenic cancer chemotherapies. Because granisetron is metabolized by hepatic cytochrome P-450 drug-metabolizing enzymes, inducers or inhibitors of these enzymes may change the clearance and, hence, the half-life of granisetron. No specific interaction studies have been conducted in anesthetized patients. In addition, the activity of the cytochrome P-450 subfamily 3A4 (involved in the metabolism of some of the main narcotic analgesic agents) is not modified by granisetron hydrochloride <i>in vitro</i> .		
In <i>in vitro</i> human microsomal studies, ketoconazole inhibited ring oxidation of granisetron hydrochloride. However, the clinical significance of <i>in vivo</i> pharmacokinetic interactions with ketoconazole is not known. In a human pharmacokinetic study, hepatic enzyme induction with phenobarbital resulted in a 25% increase in total plasma clearance of intravenous granisetron hydrochloride. The clinical significance of this change is not known.		
QT prolongation has been reported with granisetron hydrochloride. Use of granisetron hydrochloride in patients concurrently treated with drugs known to prolong the QT interval and/or are arrhythmogenic may result in clinical consequences.		
Serotonin syndrome (including altered mental status, autonomic instability, and neuromuscular symptoms) has been described following the concomitant use of 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonists and other serotonergic drugs, including selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and serotonin and noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) <i>[see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)]</i> .		

	8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS	
	8.1 Pregnancy	
	Pregnancy Category B	
Reproduction studies have been performed in pregnant rats at intravenous doses up to 9 mg/kg/day (54 mg/m ² /day, 146 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) and pregnant rabbits at intravenous doses up to 3 mg/kg/day (35.4 mg/m ² /day, 96 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to granisetron. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.		

	8.3 Nursing Mothers	
It is not known whether granisetron is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when granisetron hydrochloride injection is administered to a nursing woman.		

	8.4 Pediatric Use	
<i>Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting</i>		
<i>[See Dosage and Administration (2)]</i> for use in chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in pediatric patients 2 to 16 years of age. Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients under 2 years of age have not been established.		

	Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting	
Safety and efficacy have not been established in pediatric patients for the prevention of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV). Granisetron has been evaluated in a pediatric patient clinical trial for use in the prevention of PONV. Due to the lack of efficacy and the QT prolongation observed in this trial, use of granisetron for the prevention of PONV in children is not recommended.The trial was a prospective, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, parallel-group trial that evaluated 157 children aged 2 to 16 years who were undergoing elective surgery for tonsillectomy or adenotonsillectomy. The purpose of the trial was to assess two dose levels (20 mcg/kg and 40 mcg/kg) of intravenous granisetron in the prevention of PONV. There was no active comparator or placebo. The primary endpoint was total control of nausea and vomiting (defined as no nausea, vomiting/retching, or use of rescue medication) in the 24 hours following surgery. Efficacy was not established due to lack of dose response.		
The trial also included standard 12 lead ECGs performed pre-dose and after the induction of anesthesia. ECGs were repeated at the end of surgery after the administration of granisetron and just prior to reversal of anesthesia. QT prolongation was seen at both dose levels. Five patients in this trial experienced an increase of ≥ 60 msec in QTcF. In addition, there were two patients whose QTcF was ≥ 500 msec. Interpretation of the QTcF prolongation was confounded by multiple factors, including the use of concomitant medication and the lack of either a placebo or active control. A thorough QT trial in adults has not been performed.		

	Other adverse events that occurred in the study included: vomiting (5 to 8%), post-procedural hemorrhage (3 to 5%), and dehydration (0 to 5%).	
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Pediatric patients under 2 years of age have not been studied.

8.5 Geriatric Use

During chemotherapy clinical trials, 713 patients 65 years of age or older received granisetron hydrochloride injection. The safety and effectiveness were similar in patients of various ages.

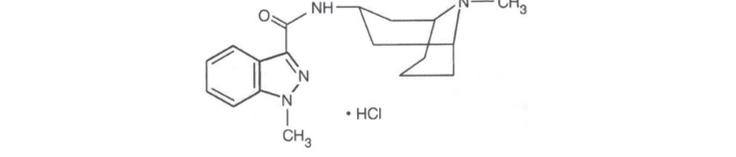
10 OVERDOSAGE

There is no specific antidote for granisetron hydrochloride injection overdosage. In case of overdosage, symptomatic treatment should be given. Overdosage of up to 38.5 mg of granisetron hydrochloride injection has been reported without symptoms or only the occurrence of a slight headache.

11 DESCRIPTION

Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection, USP is a serotonin-3 (5-HT₃) receptor antagonist. Chemically it is *endo*-N-(9-methyl-9-azabicyclo [3.3.1] non-3-yl)-1-methyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Its chemical structure is:



Granisetron hydrochloride

C₁₈H₂₄N₄O•HCl M.W. 348.9 (312.4 free base)

Granisetron hydrochloride is a white to off-white solid that is readily soluble in water and normal saline at 20°C. Granisetron hydrochloride injection, USP is a clear, colorless, sterile, nonpyrogenic, aqueous solution for intravenous administration.

Granisetron hydrochloride injection, USP 1 mg/mL is available in 1 mL Single-dose and 4 mL Multiple-use vials. Granisetron hydrochloride injection, USP 0.1 mg/mL is available in a 1 mL single-dose vial.

1 mg/mL: Each 1 mL contains: Active: Granisetron hydrochloride 1.12 mg, equivalent to granisetron, 1 mg; **Inactives:** Sodium Chloride, 9 mg; Citric Acid, 2 mg; Sodium Citrate, Dihydrate, Sodium Hydroxide and/or Hydrochloric Acid may be added to adjust pH (approximately 4.0 to 6.0), and Water for Injection q.s. to 1 mL; **Preservative:** Benzyl Alcohol, 10 mg.

0.1 mg/mL (preservative-free): Each mL contains: Active: Granisetron hydrochloride 0.112 mg, equivalent to granisetron, 0.1 mg; **Inactives:** Sodium Chloride, 9 mg; Citric Acid, 2 mg; Sodium Citrate, Dihydrate, Sodium Hydroxide and/or Hydrochloric Acid may be added to adjust pH (approximately 4.0 to 6.0), and Water for Injection q.s. to 1 mL.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Granisetron is a selective 5-hydroxytryptamine, (5-HT₃) receptor antagonist with little or no affinity for other serotonin receptors, including 5-HT₁¹; 5-HT_{1A}¹; 5-HT_{1B/C}¹; 5-HT₂¹; for alpha₁¹-, alpha₂¹- or beta-adrenoreceptors; for dopamine-D₂¹; or for histamine-H₁¹; benzodiazepine; picrotoxin or opioid receptors.

Serotonin receptors of the 5-HT₃ type are located peripherally on vagal nerve terminals and centrally in the chemoreceptor trigger zone of the area postrema. During chemotherapy-induced vomiting, mucosal enterochromaffin cells release serotonin, which stimulates 5-HT₃ receptors. This evokes vagal afferent discharge and may induce vomiting. Animal studies demonstrate that, in binding to 5-HT₃ receptors, granisetron blocks serotonin stimulation and subsequent vomiting after emetogenic stimuli such as cisplatin. In the ferret animal model, a single granisetron injection prevented vomiting due to high-dose cisplatin or arrested vomiting within 5 to 30 seconds.

In most human studies, granisetron has had little effect on blood pressure, heart rate or ECG. No evidence of an effect on plasma prolactin or aldosterone concentrations has been found in other studies. Granisetron hydrochloride injection exhibited no effect on oro-cecal transit time in normal volunteers given a single intravenous infusion of 50 mcg/kg or 200 mcg/kg. Single and multiple oral doses slowed colonic transit in normal volunteers.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting

In adult cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and in volunteers, mean pharmacokinetic data obtained from an infusion of a single 40 mcg/kg dose of granisetron hydrochloride injection are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Pharmacokinetic Parameters in Adult Cancer Patients Undergoing Chemotherapy and in Volunteers, Following a Single Intravenous 40 mcg/kg Dose of Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection

	Peak Plasma Concentration (ng/mL)	Terminal Phase Plasma Half-Life (h)	Total Clearance (L/h/kg)	Volume of Distribution (L/kg)
Cancer Patients				
Mean	63.8*	8.95*	0.38*	3.07*
Range	18.0 to 176	0.90 to 31.1	0.14 to 1.54	0.85 to 10.4

Volunteers				
21 to 42 years				
Mean	64.3 ¹	4.91 ¹	0.79 ¹	3.04 ¹
Range	11.2 to 182	0.88 to 15.2	0.20 to 2.56	1.68 to 6.13
65 to 81 years				
Mean	57.0 ¹	7.69 ¹	0.44 ¹	3.97 ¹
Range	14.6 to 153	2.65 to 17.7	0.17 to 1.06	1.75 to 7.01

¹5-minute infusion

¹3-minute infusion

Distribution

Plasma protein binding is approximately 65% and granisetron distributes freely between plasma and red blood cells.

Metabolism

Granisetron metabolism involves N-demethylation and aromatic ring oxidation followed by conjugation. *In vitro* liver microsomal studies show that granisetron's major route of metabolism is inhibited by ketoconazole, suggestive of metabolism mediated by the cytochrome P-450 3A subfamily. Animal studies suggest that some of the metabolites may also have 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist activity.

Elimination

Clearance is predominantly by hepatic metabolism. In normal volunteers, approximately 12% of the administered dose is eliminated unchanged in the urine in 48 hours. The remainder of the dose is excreted as metabolites, 49% in the urine, and 34% in the feces.

Subpopulations

Gender

There was high inter- and intra-subject variability noted in these studies. No difference in mean AUC was found between males and females, although males had a higher C generally.

Elderly

The ranges of the pharmacokinetic parameters in elderly volunteers (mean age 71 years), given a single 40 mcg/kg intravenous dose of granisetron hydrochloride injection, were generally similar to those in younger healthy volunteers; mean values were lower for clearance and longer for half-life in the elderly patients (see Table 3).

Pediatric Patients

A pharmacokinetic study in pediatric cancer patients (2 to 16 years of age), given a single 40 mcg/kg intravenous dose of granisetron hydrochloride injection, showed that volume of distribution and total clearance increased with age. No relationship with age was observed for peak plasma concentration or terminal phase plasma half-life. When volume of distribution and total clearance are adjusted for body weight, the pharmacokinetics of granisetron are similar in pediatric and adult cancer patients.

Renal Failure Patients

Total clearance of granisetron was not affected in patients with severe renal failure who received a single 40 mcg/kg intravenous dose of granisetron hydrochloride injection.

Hepatically Impaired Patients

A pharmacokinetic study in patients with hepatic impairment due to neoplastic liver involvement showed that total clearance was approximately halved compared to patients without hepatic impairment. Given the wide variability in pharmacokinetic parameters noted in patients, dosage adjustment in patients with hepatic functional impairment is not necessary.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis , Mutagenesis , Impairment of Fertility

In a 24-month carcinogenicity study, rats were treated orally with granisetron 1, 5 or 50 mg/kg/day (6,30 or 300 mg/m²/day). The 50 mg/kg/day dose was reduced to 25 mg/kg/day (150 mg/m²/day) during week 59 due to toxicity. For a 50 kg person of average height (1.46 m body surface area), these doses represent 16, 81 and 405 times the recommended clinical dose (0.37 mg/m², IV) on a body surface area basis. There was a statistically significant increase in the incidence of hepatocellular carcinomas and adenomas in males treated with 5 mg/kg/day (30 mg/m²/day, 81 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) and above, and in females treated with 25 mg/kg/day (150 mg/m²/day, 405 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area). No increase in liver tumors was observed at a dose of 1 mg/kg/day (6 mg/m²/day, 16 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) in males and 5 mg/kg/day (30 mg/m²/day, 81 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) in females. In a 12-month oral toxicity study, treatment with granisetron 100 mg/kg/day (600 mg/m²/day, 1622 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) produced hepatocellular adenomas in male and female rats while no such tumors were found in the control rats. A 24-month mouse carcinogenicity study of granisetron did not show a statistically significant increase in tumor incidence, but the study was not conclusive.

Because of the tumor findings in rat studies, granisetron hydrochloride injection should be prescribed only at the dose and for the indication recommended [see *Indications and Usage (1) and Dosage and Administration (2)*].

Granisetron was not mutagenic in an *in vitro* Ames test and mouse lymphoma cell forward mutation assay, and *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test and *in vitro* and *ex vivo* rat hepatocyte UDS assays. It, however, produced a significant increase in UDS in HeLa cells *in vitro* and a significant increased incidence of cells with polyploidy in an *in vitro* human lymphocyte chromosomal aberration test.

Granisetron at subcutaneous doses up to 6 mg/kg/day (36 mg/m²/day, 97 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area) was found to have no effect on fertility and reproductive performance of male and female rats.

14 CLINICAL TRIALS

14.1 Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting

Single-Day Chemotherapy

Cisplatin-Based Chemotherapy

In a double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 28 cancer patients, granisetron hydrochloride injection, administered as a single intravenous infusion of 40 mcg/kg, was significantly more effective than placebo in preventing nausea and vomiting induced by cisplatin chemotherapy (see Table 5).

	Granisetron Injection	Placebo	P-Value
Number of Patients	14	14	
Response Over 24 Hours			
Complete Response [†]	93%	7%	<0.001
No Vomiting	93%	14%	<0.001
No More Than Mild Nausea	93%	7%	<0.001

*Cisplatin administration began within 10 minutes of granisetron hydrochloride injection infusion and continued for 1.5 to 3 hours. Mean cisplatin dose was 86 mg/m² in the granisetron hydrochloride injection group and 80 mg/m² in the placebo group. [†]No vomiting and no moderate or severe nausea.

Granisetron hydrochloride injection was also evaluated in a randomized dose response study of cancer patients receiving cisplatin ≥75 mg/m². Additional chemotherapeutic agents included: anthracyclines, carboplatin, cytostatic antibiotics, folic acid derivatives, methylhydrazine, nitrogen mustard analogs, podophylotoxin derivatives, pyrimidine analogs, and vinca alkaloids. Granisetron hydrochloride injection doses of 10 and 40 mcg/kg were superior to 2 mcg/kg in preventing cisplatin-induced nausea and vomiting, but 40 mcg/kg was not significantly superior to 10 mcg/kg (see Table 6).

Table 6 Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting — Single-Day High-Dose Cisplatin Therapy*

	Granisetron Injection (mcg/kg)			P-Value (vs. 2 mcg/kg)	
	2	10	40	10	40
Number of Patients	52	52	53		
Response Over 24 Hours					
Complete Response [†]	31%	62%	68%	<0.002	<0.001
No Vomiting	38%	65%	74%	<0.001	<0.001
No More Than Mild Nausea	58%	75%	79%	NS	<0.007

*Ciplatin administration began within 10 minutes of granisetron hydrochloride injection infusion and continued for 2.6 hours (mean). Mean cisplatin doses were 96 to 99 mg/m².

[†]No vomiting and no moderate or severe nausea.

Granisetron hydrochloride injection was also evaluated in a double-blind, randomized dose response study of 353 patients stratified for high (≥80 to 120 mg/m²) or low (50 to 79 mg/m²) cisplatin dose. Response rates of patients for both cisplatin strata are given in Table 7.

Table 7 Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting — Single-Day High-Dose and Low-Dose Cisplatin Therapy*

	Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection (mcg/kg)				P-Value (vs. 5 mcg/kg)		
	5	10	20	40	10	20	40
High-Dose Cisplatin							
Number of Patients	40	49	48	47			
Response Over 24 Hours							
Complete Response [†]	18%	41%	40%	47%	0.018	0.025	0.004
No Vomiting	28%	47%	44%	53%	NS	NS	0.016
No Nausea	15%	35%	38%	43%	0.036	0.019	0.005
Low-Dose Cisplatin							
Number of Patients	42	41	40	46			
Response Over 24 Hours							
Complete Response [‡]	29%	56%	58%	41%	0.012	0.009	NS
No Vomiting	36%	63%	65%	43%	0.012	0.008	NS
No Nausea	29%	56%	38%	33%	0.012	NS	NS

*Cisplatin administration began within 10 minutes of granisetron hydrochloride injection infusion and continued for 2 hours (mean). Mean cisplatin doses were 64 and 98 mg/m² for low and high strata.

[†]No vomiting and no use of rescue antiemetic.

For both the low and high cisplatin strata, the 10, 20, and 40 mcg/kg doses were more effective than the 5 mcg/kg dose in preventing nausea and vomiting within 24 hours of chemotherapy administration. The 10 mcg/kg dose was at least as effective as the higher doses.

Moderately Emetogenic Chemotherapy

Granisetron hydrochloride injection, 40 mcg/kg, was compared with the combination of chlorpromazine (50 to 200 mg/24 hours) and dexamethasone (12 mg) in patients treated with moderately emetogenic chemotherapy, including primarily carboplatin >300 mg/m², cisplatin 20 to 50 mg/m² and cyclophosphamide >600 mg/m². Granisetron hydrochloride injection was superior to the chlorpromazine regimen in preventing nausea and vomiting (see Table 8).

Table 8 Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting — Single-Day Moderately Emetogenic Chemotherapy

	Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection	Chlorpromazine*	P-Value
Number of Patients	133	133	
Response Over 24 Hours			
Complete Response [†]	68%	47%	<0.001
No Vomiting	73%	53%	<0.001
No More Than Mild Nausea	77%	59%	<0.001

*Patients also received dexamethasone, 12 mg.

[†]No vomiting and no moderate or severe nausea.

In other studies of moderately emetogenic chemotherapy, no significant difference in efficacy was found between granisetron hydrochloride doses of 40 mcg/kg and 160 mcg/kg.

Repeat-Cycle Chemotherapy

In an uncontrolled trial, 512 cancer patients received granisetron hydrochloride injection, 40 mcg/kg, prophylactically, for two cycles of chemotherapy, 224 patients received it for at least four cycles, and 108 patients received it for at least six cycles. Granisetron hydrochloride injection efficacy remained relatively constant over the first six repeat cycles, with complete response rates (no vomiting and no moderate or severe nausea in 24 hours) of 60% to 69%. No patients were studied for more than 15 cycles.

Pediatric Studies

A randomized double-blind study evaluated the 24-hour response of 80 pediatric cancer patients (age 2 to 16 years) to granisetron hydrochloride injection 10, 20 or 40 mcg/kg. Patients were treated with cisplatin ≥60 mg/m², cytarabine ≥3 g/m², cyclophosphamide ≥1 g/m² or nitrogen mustard ≥6 mg/m² (see Table 9).

	Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection Dose (mcg/kg)		
	10	20	40
Number of Patients	29	26	25
Median Number of Vomiting Episodes	2	3	1
Complete Response Over 24 Hours*	21%	31%	32%

*No vomiting and no moderate or severe nausea.

A second pediatric study compared granisetron hydrochloride injection 20 mcg/kg to chlorpromazine plus dexamethasone in 88 patients treated with ifosfamide ≥3 g/m²/day for two or three days. Granisetron hydrochloride injection was administered on each day of ifosfamide treatment. At 24 hours, 22% of granisetron hydrochloride injection patients achieved complete response (no vomiting and no moderate or severe nausea in 24 hours) compared with 10% on the chlorpromazine regimen. The median number of vomiting episodes with granisetron hydrochloride injection was 1.5; with chlorpromazine it was 7.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection, USP, 1 mg/mL (free base), is supplied in 1 mL Single-dose vials and 4 mL Multi-use vials. CONTAINS BENZYL ALCOHOL.

NDC 17478-546-02 (package of 1 Single-dose Vial)

NDC 17478-546-05 (package of 1 Multi-use Vial)

Granisetron Hydrochloride Injection, USP 0.1 mg/mL (free base), is supplied in 1 mL Single-dose Vials. CONTAINS NO PRESERVATIVE.

NDC 17478-547-01 (package of 10 Single-dose Vial)

Storage: Store single-dose vials and multiple-use vials at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

Protect from light. Do not freeze. Retain in carton until time of use.

Once the multiple-use vial is penetrated, its contents should be used within 30 days.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Patients should be informed that the most common adverse reactions for the indication of chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting are headache and constipation (see Table 1).

Patients should be advised of the risk of allergic reactions if they have a prior allergic reaction to a class of antiemetics known as 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists.

Electrocardiogram changes (QT prolongation) have been reported with the use of granisetron hydrochloride. Patients should be cautioned about the use of this drug if they have heart problems or take medications for heart problems.

Advise patients of the possibility of serotonin syndrome with concomitant use of granisetron and another serotonergic agent such as medications to treat depression and migraines. Advise patients to seek immediate medical attention if the following symptoms occur: changes in mental status autonomic instability of neuromuscular symptoms with or without gastrointestinal symptoms.

AKORN

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