

Olanzapine (Zyprexa)

About This Medicine

OLANZAPINE (oh LAN za peen) treats schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. It works by balancing the levels of dopamine and serotonin in your brain, substances that help regulate mood, behaviors, and thoughts. It belongs to a group of medications called antipsychotics. Antipsychotic medications can be used to treat several kinds of mental health conditions. It is also used to prevent nausea and vomiting (throwing up) during chemotherapy treatment. It is given orally (by mouth) when used during chemotherapy.

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

Possible Side Effects

- Dry mouth
- Constipation (unable to move bowels)
- Weight gain
- Increased appetite (increased hunger)
- Extreme tiredness or feeling sleepy
- Weakness
- Feeling dizzy
- Feeling restless
- Tremor (shaking in parts or all of the body)
- Back pain
- Low blood pressure

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 5% or greater of people treated with olanzapine. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Elderly patients with dementia are at an increased risk of life-threatening events, including stroke, when taking this medicine.

- This medicine may cause a serious condition called neuroleptic malignant syndrome which is rare. Symptoms may be confusion, fever, muscle stiffness, increased sweating and/or fast heartbeat. **Contact your care team right away if you have these symptoms.**
- Increase in your cholesterol and triglycerides level
- Increase in a hormone called prolactin, which can cause swelling of your breasts, absence of menses, decreased bone density, and erectile dysfunction (impotence).
- Blood sugar levels may change
- This medicine may cause a decrease in the number of white blood cells. This may increase your risk of infection.
- Serious and life-threatening reaction to this medicine can happen that can cause a skin rash, along with problems with your organs, swollen lymph nodes, fever and higher than normal white blood cells.
- Tardive dyskinesia – unusual and/or involuntary movements such as lip smacking, grimacing and/or eye blinking. The risk of developing this syndrome increases with the increased amount of medicine taken and the longer it is taken.
- This medicine may cause unusual thinking or alter your decision making.
- Low blood pressure when standing or sitting.
- Changes in your body's ability to regulate your body temperature.
- Increased risk for falls, fractures, or other injuries.
- Trouble swallowing
- Seizure. This is very rare in smaller doses of olanzapine. Common symptoms of a seizure can include confusion, blacking out, passing out, loss of hearing or vision, blurred vision, unusual smells or tastes (such as burning rubber), trouble talking, tremors or shaking in parts or all of the body, repeated body movements, tense muscles that do not relax, and loss of control of urine and bowels. There are other less common symptoms of seizures. **If you or your family member suspects you are having a seizure, call 911 right away.**

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare and are more common with higher doses. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your care team.

Important Information

- This medicine may impair your ability to drive or use machinery. Use caution and talk to your care team about any precautions you may need to take.
- Avoid situations that can cause overheating or dehydration. Tell your care team if you become ill and develop symptoms of dehydration including sweating too much or not at all, feeling very hot, thirsty, or are unable to produce urine.

How to Take Your Medication

- Swallow the medicine as prescribed by your care team.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you think about it. If it is almost time for the next dose, just skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses to make up for a missed dose.



- **Overdosage:** If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Protect it from light and moisture. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.

Treating Side Effects

- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow. Sugar-free hard candies and chewing gum can keep your mouth moist.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your care team before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- Ask your care team about medicines that are available to help stop or lessen constipation.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your care team if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Get regular exercise, with your care team's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your care team tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- If you get a rash, do not put anything on it unless your care teams says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your care team for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of olanzapine with food, however, you should avoid alcohol while taking olanzapine.
- Check with your care team about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with olanzapine. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call Your Care Team

Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher



- Chills
- Confusion or agitation
- Fast heartbeat
- Experience a fall
- Extreme tiredness or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Headache that does not go away
- Trouble eating/swallowing
- Sore mouth/throat
- Muscle stiffness
- Tremor (shaking in parts or all of the body)
- Swollen lymph nodes in your neck and/or armpits
- Unusual and/or involuntary movements such as lip smacking, grimacing and/or eye blinking
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Unusual thirst, passing urine often, headache, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Weight gain
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Symptoms of a stroke such as sudden numbness or weakness of your face, arm, or leg, mostly on one side of your body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, feeling dizzy, loss of balance or coordination; or sudden, bad headache with no known cause. **If you have any of these symptoms for 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Symptoms of a seizure such as confusion, blacking out, passing out, loss of hearing or vision, blurred vision, unusual smells or tastes (such as burning rubber), trouble talking, tremors or shaking in parts or all of the body, repeated body movements, tense muscles that do not relax, and loss of control of urine and bowels. **If you or your family member suspects you are having a seizure, call 911 right away.**
- A new rash or a rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** Talk with your care team if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while taking this medicine. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Talk with your care team about breastfeeding during treatment. You may need to stop breastfeeding.
- **Fertility warning:** This medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. If you plan to have children, talk with your care team

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