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Drugs and Supplements

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# Histamine H2 Antagonist (Oral Route, Injection Route, Intravenous Route)

Description and Brand Names

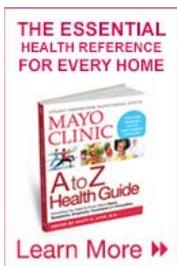
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## Proper Use

Drug information provided by: [Micromedex](#)

For patients taking the nonprescription strengths of these medicines for heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:

- Do not take the maximum daily dosage continuously for more than 2 weeks, unless directed to do so by your doctor.
- If you have trouble in swallowing, or persistent abdominal pain, see your doctor promptly. These may be signs of a serious condition that may need different treatment.

For patients taking the prescription strengths of these medicines for more serious problems:

- One dose a day—Take it at bedtime, unless otherwise directed.
- Two doses a day—Take one in the morning and one at bedtime.
- Several doses a day—Take them with meals and at bedtime for best results.

It may take several days before this medicine begins to relieve stomach pain. To help relieve this pain, antacids may be taken with the H2-blocker, unless your doctor has told you not to use them. However, you should wait one-half to one hour between taking the antacid and the H2-blocker. Take this medicine for the full time of treatment, even if you begin to feel better. Also, it is important that you keep your appointments with your doctor for check-ups so that your doctor will be better able to tell you when to stop taking this medicine.

For patients taking famotidine chewable tablets:

- Chew the tablets well before swallowing.

For patients taking famotidine oral disintegrating tablets:

- Make sure your hands are dry.
- Leave tablets in unopened package until the time of use, then open the pack and remove the tablet.
- Immediately place the tablet on the tongue.
- The tablet will dissolve in seconds, and you may swallow it with your saliva. You do not need to drink water or other liquid to swallow the tablet.

For patients taking ranitidine effervescent tablets:

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- Do not chew, swallow whole or dissolve on the tongue.
- Remove the foil wrapping and dissolve the 150-mg tablet in 6 to 8 ounces of water before drinking.
- For infants and children: Dissolve the 25-mg tablet in no less than 5 mL (1 teaspoonful) of water in a dosing cup. Wait until the tablet is completely dissolved before administering the solution to the infant or child. You may give the medicine to your infant by dropper or oral syringe. Ask your doctor if you are unsure how much medicine to give your infant.

## Dosing

The dose medicines in this class will be different for different patients. Follow your doctor's orders or the directions on the label. The following information includes only the average doses of these medicines. If your dose is different, do not change it unless your doctor tells you to do so.

The amount of medicine that you take depends on the strength of the medicine. Also, the number of doses you take each day, the time allowed between doses, and the length of time you take the medicine depend on the medical problem for which you are using the medicine.

- For cimetidine:
  - For oral dosage forms (solution and tablets):
    - To treat duodenal or gastric ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—300 milligrams (mg) four times a day, with meals and at bedtime. Some people may take 400 or 600 mg two times a day, on waking up and at bedtime. Others may take 800 mg at bedtime.
      - Children—20 to 40 mg per kilogram (kg) (9.1 to 18.2 mg per pound) of body weight a day, divided into four doses, taken with meals and at bedtime.
    - To prevent duodenal ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—300 mg two times a day, on waking up and at bedtime. Instead some people may take 400 mg at bedtime.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To treat heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:
      - Adults and teenagers—100 to 200 mg with water when symptoms start. The dose may be repeated once in twenty-four hours. Do not take more than 400 mg in twenty-four hours.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To prevent heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:
      - Adults and teenagers—100 to 200 mg with water up to one hour before eating food or drinking beverages you expect to cause symptoms. Do not take more than 400 mg in twenty-four hours.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To treat conditions in which the stomach produces too much acid:
      - Adults—300 mg four times a day, with meals and at bedtime. Your doctor may change the dose if needed.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.

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- To treat gastroesophageal reflux disease:
          - Adults—800 to 1600 mg a day, divided into smaller doses. Treatment usually lasts for 12 weeks.
          - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
  - For injection dosage form:
    - To treat duodenal ulcers, gastric ulcers or conditions in which the stomach produces too much acid:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—300 mg injected into muscle, every six to eight hours. Or, 300 mg injected slowly into a vein every six to eight hours. Instead, 900 mg may be injected slowly into a vein around the clock at the rate of 37.5 mg per hour. Some people may need 150 mg at first, before beginning the around-the-clock treatment.
      - Children—5 to 10 mg per kg (2.3 to 4.5 mg per pound) of body weight injected into a vein or muscle, every six to eight hours.
    - To prevent stress-related bleeding:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—50 mg per hour injected slowly into a vein around the clock for up to 7 days.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
- For famotidine:
  - For oral dosage forms (suspension, tablets, chewable tablets, and oral disintegrating tablets):
    - To treat duodenal ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—40 milligrams (mg) once a day at bedtime. Some people may take 20 mg two times a day.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To prevent duodenal ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—20 mg once a day at bedtime.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To treat gastric ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—40 mg once a day at bedtime.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To treat heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:
      - Adults and teenagers—10 mg with water when symptoms start. The dose may be repeated once in twenty-four hours. Do not take more than 20 mg in twenty-four hours.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To prevent heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:
      - Adults and teenagers—10 mg taken one hour before eating a meal you expect to cause symptoms. The dose may be repeated once in twenty-four hours. Do not take more than 20 mg in twenty-four hours.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To treat conditions in which the stomach produces too much acid:

- Older adults, adults, and children—20 mg every six hours. Your doctor may change the dose if needed.
    - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
  - To treat gastroesophageal reflux disease:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—20 mg two times a day, usually for up to 6 weeks.
    - Children weighing more than 10 kg (22 pounds)—1 to 2 mg per kilogram (kg) (0.5 to 0.9 mg per pound) of body weight a day, divided into two doses.
    - Children weighing less than 10 kg (22 pounds)—1 to 2 mg per kg (0.5 to 0.9 mg per pound) of body weight a day, divided into three doses.
- For injection dosage form:
  - To treat duodenal ulcers, gastric ulcers, or conditions in which the stomach produces too much acid:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—20 mg injected into a vein, every twelve hours.
    - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
- For nizatidine:
  - For oral dosage forms (capsules and oral solution):
    - To treat duodenal or gastric ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—300 milligrams (mg) once a day at bedtime. Some people may take 150 mg two times a day.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To prevent duodenal ulcers:
      - Adults and teenagers—150 mg once a day at bedtime.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To prevent heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:
      - Adults and teenagers—75 mg taken thirty to sixty minutes before eating a meal you expect to cause symptoms. The dose may be repeated once in twenty-four hours.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
    - To treat gastroesophageal reflux disease:
      - Adults and teenagers—150 mg two times a day.
      - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
  - For oral dosage forms (syrup, tablets, effervescent tablets):
    - To treat active duodenal ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 milligrams (mg) two times a day. Some people may take 300 mg once a day at bedtime.
      - Children and infants—2 to 4 mg per kilogram (kg) (1 to 2 mg per pound) of body weight twice a day. However, the total dose will not be more than 300 mg a day.
    - To maintain healing of duodenal ulcers:
      - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 mg once a day at bedtime.

- Children and infants—2 to 4 mg per kg (1 to 2 mg per pound) of body weight once a day. However, the total dose will not be more than 150 mg a day.
  - To treat erosive esophagitis:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 mg four times a day
    - Children and infants—5 to 10 mg per kg (2.3 to 4.6 mg per pound) of body weight per day, usually divided and given in two doses during the day.
  - To maintain healing of erosive esophagitis:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 mg twice a day
    - Children and infants—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
  - To treat benign gastric ulcers:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 mg two times a day.
    - Children and infants—2 to 4 mg per kg (1 to 2 mg per pound) of body weight twice a day. However, the total dose will not be more than 300 mg a day.
  - To maintain healing of gastric ulcers:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 mg once a day at bedtime.
    - Children and infants—2 to 4 mg per kg (1 to 2 mg per pound) of body weight once a day. However, the total dose will not be more than 150 mg a day.
  - To treat heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:
    - Adults and teenagers—150 mg with water when symptoms start. The dose may be repeated once in twenty-four hours. Do not take more than 300 mg in twenty-four hours.
    - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
  - To prevent heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach:
    - Adults and teenagers—150 mg with water taken thirty to sixty minutes before eating a meal or drinking beverages you expect to cause symptoms. Do not take more than 300 mg in twenty-four hours.
    - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
  - To treat some conditions in which the stomach produces too much acid:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 mg two times a day. Your doctor may change the dose if needed.
    - Children—Dose must be determined by your doctor.
  - To treat gastroesophageal reflux disease:
    - Older adults, adults, and teenagers—150 mg two times a day. Your dose may be increased if needed.
    - Children and infants—5 to 10 mg per kg (2.3 to 4.6 mg per pound) of body weight per day, usually divided and given in two doses during the day.
- For injection dosage form:
  - To treat duodenal ulcers, gastric ulcers, or conditions in which the stomach produces too much acid:

- Older adults, adults, and teenagers—50 milligrams (mg) injected into a muscle every six to eight hours. Or, 50 mg injected slowly into a vein every six to eight hours. Instead, you may receive 6.25 mg per hour injected slowly into a vein around the clock. However, most people will usually not need more than 400 mg a day.
- To treat duodenal or gastric ulcers:
  - Children—2 to 4 mg per kilogram (kg) (1 to 2 mg per pound) of body weight per day, usually divided and injected slowly into a vein every six to eight hours. However the total dose will not be more than 50 mg every six to eight hours.

### Missed Dose

If you miss a dose of this medicine, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double doses.

### Storage

Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light. Keep from freezing.

Keep out of the reach of children.

Do not keep outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.

[Before Using](#)

[Precautions](#)

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