

OLANZAPINE

WHY AM I GETTING A PRESCRIPTION FOR OLANZAPINE?

The cancer treatment that you will be getting can cause nausea or vomiting. We do everything we can to reduce this side effect. Olanzapine is highly effective, even in small doses, at decreasing nausea and vomiting and is an important part of your care.



WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I GO TO THE PHARMACY?

Olanzapine was originally approved for people with certain mental illness. The pharmacist may tell you about the original reason the drug was used when you drop off your prescription or pick up your medication. We want you to be prepared for this possibility. You may wish to tell the pharmacist why you have been prescribed olanzapine and that your cancer team is prescribing olanzapine for a completely different reason. This original approval for the medication does not make your insurance or your medical record think you have the certain mental illness when you get the prescription.



WHAT ABOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS?

Nearly all the side effects listed for this medication occur in people who are on higher doses of the medicine and who take the medicine every day for many years. People who take olanzapine for chemotherapy are not likely to get side effects other than tiredness. It is often recommended that you take it in the evening because of this.



IS OLANZAPINE COVERED BY INSURANCE? IS IT EXPENSIVE?

This medication is much less expensive than other medicines used to prevent side effects of chemotherapy. The cost for each pill is about 20 cents. Most insurance will cover the cost, but you can also choose to pay for it on your own if insurance does not cover it.



THESE SITES MAY BE HELPFUL TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NAUSEA AND VOMITING RELATED TO CANCER TREATMENT:

National Cancer Institute - www.cancer.gov
American Cancer Society - www.cancer.org
American Society of Clinical Oncology - www.cancer.net
National Comprehensive Cancer Network - www.nccn.org