

# Ranitidine (Zantac)

**Indication(s):** Heartburn

**Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to ranitidine.

**Precautions:** Response to therapy with ranitidine does not exclude cardiac or gastric disease (Monitor and Follow-up). Prolonged use may impair the absorption of protein-bound Vitamin B12 and may contribute to the development of cyanocobalamin (vitamin B12) deficiency.

**Drug Interactions:** The reduction in gastric pH induced by ranitidine may impact the bioavailability of certain drugs. This can result in either an increase in absorption (e.g. midazolam) or a decrease in absorption (e.g. ketoconazole) (Monitor).

**Adverse effects:** Most commonly, headache and GI related- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation.

**Pharmacology:** Ranitidine is a competitive, reversible inhibitor of the action of histamine at the histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptors, including receptors on the gastric cells. Ranitidine is 50% absorbed after oral administration with mean peak levels occurring 2 to 3 hours after a 150-mg dose.

**Dosage and Administration:** 300mg PO initially then 150mg PO BID