

# A Patient's Guide to Zantac

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NDMA Exposure, Nationwide Recalls  
and Lawsuit Information



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## From this guide, you will learn:

- Why Zantac is no longer available in the U.S.
- How ranitidine products could expose consumers to unacceptable health risks
- Who is eligible to file a Zantac lawsuit

# Introduction

If you are one of millions of Americans who suffer from acid indigestion, GERD or ulcers, you may have taken over-the-counter or prescription Zantac or its generic form, ranitidine.

Zantac had been a popular heartburn drug for more than 35 years when the Food and Drug Administration asked companies to stop selling all forms of the medication in April 2020.

According to the FDA, a potential cancer-causing contaminant called N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) can build up in ranitidine over time, posing a risk to consumers. The FDA does not know how long NDMA has been present in ranitidine products.



## 15 Million Americans

had taken prescription-strength Zantac or ranitidine each year prior to the market withdrawal in April 2020

## 500+ Lawsuits

claim manufacturers concealed the NDMA-associated dangers that ranitidine products posed to consumers

## 35 Years

elapsed before manufacturers began recalling ranitidine products because they may contain unacceptable levels of NDMA

# Zantac Recalls

In September 2019, the FDA warned that some batches of ranitidine had tested positive for NDMA. After the FDA's warning, manufacturers began recalling ranitidine products.

Further laboratory testing revealed that NDMA in ranitidine may increase to unacceptable levels when stored for long periods and when exposed to higher than room temperatures.



“Based on these findings, FDA has determined that many currently marketed ranitidine products could expose consumers to unacceptable health risks. All ranitidine products, including the oral liquid/syrup, will be withdrawn by their manufacturers and will not be available on the U.S. market.”

— Food and Drug Administration

## Should I Stop Taking Zantac?

The FDA advises people who currently have OTC Zantac or ranitidine to stop using it right away. People taking prescription Zantac or ranitidine should speak with their doctor about other treatment options. Ranitidine products are not available for new or existing prescriptions or over-the-counter use in the U.S.



# How Dangerous Is NDMA in Zantac?

Small amounts of NDMA exist in food, water and the environment and aren't typically a danger. But chronic exposure to high levels of NDMA — like those found in some batches of Zantac — could increase the risk of developing various cancers.

While researchers don't know how high the risk is, some studies have linked ranitidine to cancers.

## Symptoms of NDMA overexposure include:

- Abdominal cramps
- Dizziness
- Enlarged liver
- Fever
- Headaches
- Jaundice
- Nausea
- Reduced function of the liver, kidneys and lungs
- Vomiting

# Current Lawsuits

Hundreds of people have already filed Zantac lawsuits to hold drugmakers accountable for exposing them to NDMA. Doctors have said most people who developed cancer and filed lawsuits had no family history or genetic markers for the disease.

Lawsuits claim that Zantac's makers knew or should have known that the drug could potentially form NDMA and become a cancer risk, and they didn't warn the public.

“Plaintiffs uniformly allege that the manufacturers, sellers, and distributors of Zantac and other ranitidine medications knew or should have known that these medications exposed consumers to NDMA, and that defendants concealed the NDMA-associated dangers posed to consumers by these products.”

— United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation

## Am I Eligible to File a Lawsuit?

If you or a loved one were diagnosed with cancer after taking Zantac, you may qualify to file a lawsuit for compensation. A lawyer can review your case for free and help gather medical records to build a case.

### Cancers that qualify for Zantac lawsuits include:

- Bladder cancer and bladder removal
- Breast cancer
- Colon cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Kidney cancer and kidney removal
- Liver cancer
- Melanoma
- Ovarian cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Stomach cancer

# Questions Your Zantac Lawyer May Ask

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## **What have you been diagnosed with?**

The lawyer handling your case will want to know what type of cancer you were diagnosed with and when. Medical records showing the diagnosis are helpful.

## **How long did you take Zantac?**

Do your best to remember when you started taking the drug. If you have any documentation to prove you took Zantac, your lawyer will need the records.

## **How are you being treated for your cancer?**

Your lawyer will want to know what type of treatment you are undergoing for your cancer, how you are feeling and if it's working.

## **Do you have a personal or family history of cancer?**

If you or a member of your family have had cancer before, you may be more at risk of developing it again. Provide a copy of your medical records and be ready to discuss your family's medical history.

## Patient Checklist

### Items to Have Ready for Your Free Consultation



Medical Records &  
Family History



List of Medications and  
Cancer Treatments



Record of Zantac  
Use

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# Contributors

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