

# Zopiclone

## General:

Zopiclone is a non-benzodiazepine hypnotic agent used in the treatment of insomnia. Both zopiclone and benzodiazepines act at the benzodiazepine binding site on  $\alpha 1$ ,  $\alpha 2$ ,  $\alpha 3$  and  $\alpha 5$  GABA-A containing receptors as full agonists causing an increase of GABA to produce the therapeutic and adverse effects of zopiclone. The metabolite of zopiclone, desmethylzopiclone is also pharmacologically active although it has predominately anxiolytic properties.

Zopiclone is indicated for the short term treatment of insomnia where sleep initiation or sleep maintenance are prominent symptoms. Long term use is not recommended as tolerance, dependence, addiction can occur with prolonged use.

The side effect most commonly seen in clinical trials is taste alteration or dysgeusia (bitter, metallic taste, which is usually fleeting in most users but can persist until the drug's half-life has expired). Palpitations may occur during daytime if withdrawing the drug after prolonged periods of use (especially if taken for more than two weeks).

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 5-7 days\*

Method: LCMS

Units:  $\mu\text{g/l}$

Ref.- range: 55.0 - 85.0

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit <http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>