

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

Pr TRAMADOL

Tramadol Hydrochloride Tablets USP

50 mg

Opioid Analgesic

**AA Pharma Inc.
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Pr **TRAMADOL**

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50 mg

PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	Nonmedicinal Ingredients (in alphabetical order)
Oral	tablet 50 mg	hydroxyethyl cellulose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol and titanium dioxide

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

Adults

TRAMADOL (tramadol hydrochloride) is indicated for the management of moderate to moderately severe pain.

Geriatrics (> 65 years of age):

In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Healthy elderly subjects aged 65 to 75 years administered tramadol have plasma concentrations and elimination half-lives comparable to those observed in healthy subjects less than 65 years of age. TRAMADOL should be administered with greater caution in patients older than 75 years, due to the greater potential for adverse events in this population (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):

The safety and efficacy of tramadol hydrochloride has not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, use of TRAMADOL is not recommended in patients under 18 years of age.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Patients who are hypersensitive to the active substance (tramadol hydrochloride) or other opioid analgesics or to any ingredient in the formulation. For a complete listing, see the **DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING** section of the Product Monograph.

- Patients with known or suspected mechanical gastrointestinal obstruction (e.g., bowel obstruction or strictures) or any diseases/conditions that affect bowel transit (e.g., ileus of any type).
- Patients with suspected surgical abdomen (e.g., acute appendicitis or pancreatitis).
- Patients with severe renal or hepatic impairment (creatinine clearance of less than 30 mL/min and/or Child-Pugh Class C).
- Patients with mild pain that can be managed with other pain medications.
- Patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive airway, or status asthmaticus.
- Patients with acute respiratory depression, elevated carbon dioxide levels in the blood and cor pulmonale.
- Patients with acute alcoholism, delirium tremens, and convulsive disorders.
- Patients with severe CNS depression, increased cerebrospinal or intracranial pressure, and head injury.
- Patients taking monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (or within 14 days of such therapy).
- Any situation where opioids are contraindicated, including acute intoxication with any of the following: alcohol, hypnotics, centrally acting analgesics, opioids or psychotropic drugs. TRAMADOL may worsen central nervous system and respiratory depression in these patients.
- Pediatric patients less than 18 years of age who have undergone tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy for obstructive sleep apnea syndrome.
- Pediatric patients less than 12 years of age.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Limitations of Use

Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the risks of overdose and death with immediate release opioid formulations, TRAMADOL (tramadol hydrochloride) tablets should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide appropriate management of pain (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Addiction, Abuse, and Misuse

TRAMADOL poses risks of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Each patient's risk should be assessed prior to prescribing TRAMADOL, and all patients should be monitored regularly for the development of these behaviours or conditions (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). TRAMADOL should be stored securely to avoid theft or misuse.

Life-threatening Respiratory Depression: OVERDOSE

Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression may occur with use of TRAMADOL. Infants exposed in-utero or through breast milk are at risk of life-threatening respiratory depression upon delivery or when nursed. Patients should be monitored for respiratory depression, especially during initiation of TRAMADOL or following a dose increase.

Do not crush, chew, or dissolve TRAMADOL tablets. This can lead to dangerous adverse events including death (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). Further, instruct patients of the hazards related to taking opioids including fatal overdose.

Accidental Exposure

Accidental ingestion of even one dose of TRAMADOL, especially by children, can result in a fatal overdose of tramadol (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Disposal, for instructions on proper disposal).

Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome

Prolonged maternal use of TRAMADOL during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

Interaction with Alcohol

The co-ingestion of alcohol with TRAMADOL should be avoided as it may result in dangerous additive effects, causing serious injury or death (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS and DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Risks From Concomitant Use With Benzodiazepines or Other CNS Depressants

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic and DRUG INTERACTIONS).

- Reserve concomitant prescribing of TRAMADOL and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.
- Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required.
- Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

General

Patients should be instructed not to give TRAMADOL (tramadol hydrochloride) tablets to anyone other than the patient for whom it was prescribed, as such inappropriate use may have severe medical consequences, including death. TRAMADOL should be stored securely to avoid theft or misuse.

TRAMADOL should only be prescribed by persons knowledgeable in the administration of potent opioids, in the management of patients receiving potent opioids for the treatment of pain, and in the detection and management of respiratory depression, including the use of opioid antagonists.

Patients should be cautioned not to consume alcohol while taking tramadol hydrochloride as it may increase the chance of experiencing serious adverse events, including death. Hyperalgesia that will not respond to a further dose increase of opioids can occur at particularly high doses. A tramadol dose reduction or change in opioid may be required.

Seizure Risk

Seizures have been reported in patients receiving tramadol within the recommended dosage range. Spontaneous post-marketing reports indicate that seizure risk is increased with doses of tramadol hydrochloride above the recommended range (see **Neurologic** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Drug-Drug Interactions**). Concomitant use of tramadol hydrochloride increases the seizure risk in patients taking:

- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI antidepressants or anorectics) or serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs);
- tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) (e.g., imipramine and amitriptyline) and other tricyclic compounds (e.g., cyclobenzaprine, promethazine, etc.); or
- other opioids.

Administration of tramadol may enhance the seizure risk in patients taking:

- MAO inhibitors (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**);
- neuroleptics; or
- other drugs that reduce the seizure threshold.

Risk of convulsions may also increase in patients with epilepsy, those with a history of seizures or in patients with a recognized risk for seizure (such as head trauma, metabolic disorders, alcohol and drug withdrawal, CNS infections). In tramadol hydrochloride overdose, naloxone administration may increase the risk of seizure (see **OVERDOSAGE, Treatment**).

Anaphylactoid Reactions

Serious and rarely, fatal anaphylactoid reactions have been reported in patients receiving therapy with tramadol. When these rare reactions do occur, it is often following the first dose. Other reported allergic reactions include pruritus, hives, bronchospasm, angioedema, toxic epidermal necrolysis and Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Patients with a history of anaphylactoid reactions to codeine and other opioids may be at increased risk and therefore should not receive TRAMADOL (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Abuse and Misuse

Like all opioids, TRAMADOL is a potential drug of abuse and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Therefore, TRAMADOL should be prescribed and handled with caution.

Patients should be assessed for their clinical risks for opioid abuse or addiction prior to being prescribed opioids. All patients receiving opioids should be routinely monitored for signs of misuse and abuse.

Opioids, such as TRAMADOL, should be used with particular care in patients with a history of alcohol and illicit/prescription drug abuse. However, concerns about abuse, addiction, and diversion should not prevent the proper management of pain.

TRAMADOL is intended for oral use only. Do not chew or crush the tablets. Abuse of oral dosage forms can be expected to result in serious adverse events, including death.

A Risk Management strategy to support the safe and effective use of TRAMADOL has been established. The following are considered to be the essential components of the Risk Management strategy:

- a) Commitment to not emphasize or highlight the scheduling status of TRAMADOL (i.e., not listed under a schedule to the CDSA) in its advertising or promotional activities.
- b) Inclusion of a PAAB-approved fair balance statement in all TRAMADOL advertising and promotional materials.
- c) Assurance that health-care education activities on pain management with TRAMADOL include balanced, evidence-based and current information. Commitment to take reasonable actions to inform health-care professionals that there is Health Canada-approved patient information on benefits and risks, and to ensure that this information can be readily accessed through electronic and/or hard copy sources.

TRAMADOL should not be used in opioid-dependent patients since it cannot suppress morphine withdrawal symptoms, even though it is an opioid agonist.

Dependence/Tolerance

As with other opioids, tolerance and physical dependence may develop upon repeated administration of TRAMADOL and there is a potential for development of psychological dependence.

Physical dependence and tolerance reflect the neuroadaptation of the opioid receptors to chronic exposure to an opioid, and are separate and distinct from abuse and addiction. Tolerance, as well as physical dependence, may develop upon repeated administration of opioids, and are not by themselves evidence of an addictive disorder or abuse.

Patients on prolonged therapy should be tapered gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. Withdrawal symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy or upon administration of an opioid antagonist. Some of the symptoms that may be associated with abrupt withdrawal of an opioid analgesic include body aches, diarrhea, gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nausea, nervousness or restlessness, anxiety, runny nose, sneezing, tremors or shivering, stomach cramps, tachycardia, trouble with sleeping, unusual increase in sweating, palpitations, unexplained fever, weakness and yawning (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage**).

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

See *Product Monograph PART II, TOXICOLOGY*.

Risk of Overdosage

Serious potential consequences of overdosage with tramadol hydrochloride are central nervous system depression, respiratory depression and death. In treating an overdose, primary attention

should be given to maintaining adequate ventilation along with general supportive treatment (see **OVERDOSAGE**).

Do not prescribe TRAMADOL for patients who are suicidal or addiction-prone.

TRAMADOL should not be taken in doses higher than those recommended by the physician. The judicious prescribing of tramadol is essential to the safe use of this drug. With patients who are depressed or suicidal, consideration should be given to the use of non-narcotic analgesics.

Cardiovascular

Tramadol administration may result in severe hypotension in patients whose ability to maintain adequate blood pressure is compromised by reduced blood volume, or concurrent administration of drugs such as phenothiazines and other tranquilizers, sedative/hypnotics, tricyclic antidepressants or general anesthetics. These patients should be monitored for signs of hypotension after initiating or titrating the dose of TRAMADOL.

The use of TRAMADOL in patients with circulatory shock should be avoided as it may cause vasodilation that can further reduce cardiac output and blood pressure.

QTc Interval Prolongation: The effect of tramadol on the QT/QTc interval were evaluated in a dedicated randomized, double-blind, 4-way crossover, placebo- and positive-controlled, multiple dose ECG study in healthy subjects (N=62). The study involved administration of tramadol at a supra-therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 6 h on days 1-3 (400 mg/day), with a single 100 mg dose on day 4, or 150 mg every 6 h (600 mg/day) on days 1-3, with a single 150 mg dose on day 4. The maximum placebo-adjusted mean change from baseline in the QTcF interval was 5.5 ms (90% CI 3.2, 7.8) in the 400 mg/day treatment arm and 6.5 ms (90% CI 4.1, 8.8) in the 600 mg/day mg treatment arm, both occurring at the 8h time point. Both treatment groups were within the 10 ms threshold for QT prolongation (see ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Cardiac Electrophysiology). Post-marketing experience with the use of tramadol containing products included rare reports of QT prolongation reported with an overdose (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Other Adverse Experiences Previously Reported in Clinical Trials or Post-Marketing Reports; DRUG INTERACTIONS, QTc Interval-Prolonging Drugs; OVERDOSAGE**).

Many drugs that cause QTc prolongation are suspected to increase the risk of torsade de pointes. Torsade de pointes is a polymorphic ventricular tachyarrhythmia. Generally, the risk of torsade de pointes increases with the magnitude of QTc prolongation produced by the drug. Torsade de pointes may be asymptomatic or experienced by the patient as dizziness, palpitations, syncope, or seizures. If sustained, torsade de pointes can progress to ventricular fibrillation and sudden cardiac death.

Particular care should be exercised when administering TRAMADOL to patients who are suspected to be at an increased risk of experiencing torsade de pointes during treatment with a QTc-prolonging drug.

Risk factors for torsade de pointes in the general population include, but are not limited to, the following:

- female gender;
- age 65 years or older;

- baseline prolongation of the QT/QTc interval;
- presence of pathological genetic variants affecting cardiac ion channels or regulatory proteins, especially congenital long QT syndromes;
- family history of sudden cardiac death at <50 years;
- cardiac disease (e.g., myocardial ischemia or infarction, congestive heart failure, left ventricular hypertrophy, cardiomyopathy, conduction system disease);
- history of arrhythmias (especially ventricular arrhythmias, atrial fibrillation, or recent conversion from atrial fibrillation);
- electrolyte disturbances (e.g., hypokalemia, hypomagnesemia, hypocalcemia);
- bradycardia (<50 beats per minute);
- acute neurological events (e.g., intracranial or subarachnoid haemorrhage, stroke, intracranial trauma);
- nutritional deficits (e.g., eating disorders, extreme diets);
- diabetes mellitus;
- autonomic neuropathy.

When drugs that prolong the QTc interval are prescribed, healthcare professionals should counsel their patients concerning the nature and implications of the ECG changes, underlying diseases and disorders that are considered to represent risk factors, demonstrated and predicted drug-drug interactions, symptoms suggestive of arrhythmia, risk management strategies, and other information relevant to the use of the drug.

Use in Drug and Alcohol Addiction

TRAMADOL is an opioid with no approved use in the management of addictive disorders. Its proper usage in individuals with drug or alcohol dependence, either active or in remission is for the management of pain requiring opioid analgesia. Patients with a history of addiction to drugs or alcohol may be at higher risk of becoming addicted to TRAMADOL unless used under extreme caution and awareness.

Endocrine and Metabolism

Adrenal Insufficiency

Cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported with opioid use, more often following greater than one month of use. Presentation of adrenal insufficiency may include non-specific symptoms and signs including nausea, vomiting, anorexia, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, and low blood pressure. If adrenal insufficiency is suspected, confirm the diagnosis with diagnostic testing as soon as possible. If adrenal insufficiency is diagnosed, treat with physiologic replacement doses of corticosteroids. Wean the patient off of the opioid to allow adrenal function to recover and continue corticosteroid treatment until adrenal function recovers. Other opioids may be tried as some cases reported use of a different opioid without recurrence of adrenal insufficiency. The information available does not identify any particular opioids as being more likely to be associated with adrenal insufficiency.

Hyponatremia

Hyponatremia has been reported very rarely with the use of tramadol, usually in patients with predisposing risk factors, such as elderly patients and/or patients using concomitant medications that may cause hyponatremia (e.g., antidepressants, benzodiazepines, diuretics). In some reports,

hyponatremia appeared to be the result of the syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH) and resolved with discontinuation of tramadol and appropriate treatment (e.g., fluid restriction). During TRAMADOL treatment, monitoring for signs and symptoms of hyponatremia is recommended for patients with predisposing risk factors.

Gastrointestinal Effects

Tramadol and other morphine-like opioids have been shown to decrease bowel motility. Tramadol may obscure the diagnosis or clinical course of patients with acute abdominal conditions (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)

Prolonged maternal use of opioids during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the neonate. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, may be life-threatening.

Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome presents as irritability, hyperactivity and abnormal sleep pattern, high pitched cry, tremor, vomiting, diarrhea and failure to gain weight. The onset, duration, and severity of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome vary based on the specific opioid used, duration of use, timing and amount of last maternal use, and rate of elimination of the drug by the newborn.

Neurologic

Serotonin Syndrome: TRAMADOL could cause a rare but potentially life-threatening condition resulting from concomitant administration of serotonergic drugs (e.g., anti-depressants, migraine medications). Treatment with the serotonergic drug should be discontinued if such events (characterized by clusters of symptoms such as hyperthermia, rigidity, myoclonus, autonomic instability with possible rapid fluctuations of vital signs, mental status changes including confusion, irritability, extreme agitation progressing to delirium and coma) occur and supportive symptomatic treatment should be initiated. TRAMADOL should not be used in combination with MAO inhibitors or serotonin-precursors (such as L-tryptophan, oxitriptan) and should be used with caution in combination with other serotonergic drugs (triptans, certain tricyclic antidepressants, lithium, tramadol, St. John's Wort) due to the risk of serotonergic syndrome (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Drugs that Increase Serotonin Syndrome Risk**).

Interactions with Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol):

Tramadol should be used with caution and in a reduced dosage during concomitant administration of other opioid analgesics, general anesthetics, phenothiazines and other tranquilizers, sedative-hypnotics, tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, antihistamines, benzodiazepines, centrally-active anti-emetics and other CNS depressants. Respiratory depression, hypotension and profound sedation, coma or death may result.

Observational studies have demonstrated that concomitant use of opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines increases the risk of drug-related mortality compared to use of opioid analgesics alone. Because of similar pharmacological properties, it is reasonable to expect similar risk with the concomitant use of other CNS depressant drugs with opioid analgesics (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**). If the decision is made to prescribe a benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant concomitantly with an opioid analgesic, prescribe the lowest effective dosages and minimum durations of concomitant use. In patients already receiving an opioid analgesic,

prescribe a lower initial dose of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant than indicated in the absence of an opioid, and titrate based on clinical response. If an opioid analgesic is initiated in a patient already taking a benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant, prescribe a lower initial dose of the opioid analgesic, and titrate based on clinical response. Follow patients closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

Advise both patients and caregivers about the risks of respiratory depression and sedation when TRAMADOL is used with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (including alcohol and illicit drugs). Advise patients not to drive or operate heavy machinery until the effects of concomitant use of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant have been determined. Screen patients for risk of substance use disorders, including opioid abuse and misuse, and warn them of the risk for overdose and death associated with the use of additional CNS depressants including alcohol and illicit drugs (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

TRAMADOL should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects, including death (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS; ADVERSE REACTIONS, Sedation** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

Severe pain antagonizes the subjective and respiratory depressant actions of opioid analgesics. Should pain suddenly subside, these effects may rapidly become manifest.

Head Injury: The respiratory depressant effects of tramadol, and the capacity to elevate cerebrospinal fluid pressure, may be greatly increased in the presence of an already elevated intracranial pressure produced by trauma. Also, tramadol may produce confusion, miosis, vomiting and other side effects which obscure the clinical course of patients with head injury. In such patients, tramadol must be used with extreme caution and only if it is judged essential (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Peri-Operative Considerations

TRAMADOL is not indicated for pre-emptive analgesia (administration pre-operatively for the management of post-operative pain). TRAMADOL should only be used during post-operative period in patients that can take oral medications.

The administration of analgesics in the peri-operative period should be managed by healthcare providers with adequate training and experience (e.g., by an anesthesiologist).

Tramadol and other morphine-like opioids have been shown to decrease bowel motility. Ileus is a common post-operative complication, especially after intra-abdominal surgery with opioid analgesia. Caution should be taken to monitor for decreased bowel motility in post-operative patients receiving opioids. Standard supportive therapy should be implemented.

Psychomotor Impairment

TRAMADOL may impair the mental and/or physical abilities needed for certain potentially hazardous activities such as driving a car or operating machinery. Patients should be cautioned accordingly. Patients should also be cautioned about the combined effects of tramadol with other CNS depressants, including other opioids, phenothiazine, sedative/hypnotics and alcohol.

Respiratory

Respiratory Depression: Administer TRAMADOL cautiously in patients at risk for respiratory

depression. In these patients, alternative non-opioid analgesics should be considered. When large doses of tramadol hydrochloride are administered with anesthetic medications or alcohol, respiratory depression may result. Respiratory depression should be treated as an overdose. If naloxone is to be administered, use cautiously because it may precipitate seizures (see **Seizure Risk** and **OVERDOSAGE**).

Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression has been reported with the use of opioids, even when used as recommended. Respiratory depression from opioid use, if not immediately recognized and treated, may lead to respiratory arrest and death. Management of respiratory depression may include close observation, supportive measures, and use of opioid antagonists, depending on the patient's clinical status. Tramadol should be used with extreme caution in patients with substantially decreased respiratory reserve, pre-existing respiratory depression, hypoxia or hypercapnia (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

While serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression can occur at any time during the use of TRAMADOL, the risk is greatest during the initiation of therapy or following a dose increase. Patients should be closely monitored for respiratory depression when initiating therapy with TRAMADOL and following dose increases.

Life-threatening respiratory depression is more likely to occur in the elderly, cachectic, or debilitated patients because they may have altered pharmacokinetics or altered clearance compared to younger, healthier patients.

To reduce the risk of respiratory depression, proper dosing and titration of TRAMADOL are essential. Overestimating the TRAMADOL dose when converting patients from another opioid product can result in a fatal overdose with the first dose. In these patients, the use of non-opioid analgesics should be considered, if feasible (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations, Special Risk Groups, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Use with MAO Inhibitors: Concomitant use of TRAMADOL with MAO inhibitors is contraindicated (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Animal studies have shown increased deaths with combined administration of MAO inhibitors and tramadol. Concomitant use of TRAMADOL with MAO inhibitors increases the risk of adverse events, including seizure (see **Seizure Risk** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS**) and serotonin syndrome (see **Serotonin Syndrome**).

Cytochromes P450 (CYP) 2D6 Ultra-Rapid Metabolism: Some individuals may be CYP2D6 ultra-rapid metabolizers. These individuals convert tramadol more rapidly than other people into its more potent opioid metabolite O-desmethyltramadol (M1). This rapid conversion could result in higher than expected opioid-like side effects including life-threatening respiratory depression (see **Special Populations, Labour, Delivery and Nursing Women; DRUG INTERACTIONS, Overview**). The prevalence of this CYP2D6 phenotype varies widely in the population (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Race**).

Use in Patients with Chronic Pulmonary Disease: Monitor patients with significant chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or cor pulmonale, and patients having a substantially decreased respiratory reserve, hypoxia, hypercapnia, or preexisting respiratory depression for respiratory depression, particularly when initiating therapy and titrating with TRAMADOL, as in these patients, even usual therapeutic doses of TRAMADOL may decrease respiratory drive to the point of apnea. In these patients, use of alternative non-opioid analgesics should be considered, if possible. The use of TRAMADOL is contraindicated in Patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive airway, or status asthmaticus (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Sexual Function/Reproduction

Long-term use of opioids may be associated with decreased sex hormone levels and symptoms such as low libido, erectile dysfunction, or infertility (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Androgen deficiency**).

Special Populations

Special Risk Groups: Tramadol should be administered with caution to patients with a history of alcohol and drug abuse and in a reduced dosage to debilitated patients, and in patients with severely impaired pulmonary function, Addison's disease, hypothyroidism, myxedema, toxic psychosis, prostatic hypertrophy or urethral stricture.

Pregnant Women:

Studies in humans have not been conducted. While animal reproduction studies have revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus due to tramadol (see **TOXICOLOGY, Teratogenicity**). TRAMADOL crosses the placental barrier and is not recommended to be administered to pregnant women unless in the judgement of the physician, potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Pregnant women using opioids should not discontinue their medication abruptly as this can cause pregnancy complications. Tapering should be slow and under medical supervision to avoid serious adverse events to the fetus.

Prolonged maternal use of opioids during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the neonate. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS), unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, may be life-threatening (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome, ADVERSE REACTIONS, Other Adverse Experiences Previously Reported in Clinical Trials or Post-marketing Reports**).

Labour, Delivery and Nursing Women: Since opioids can cross the placental barrier and are excreted in breast milk, TRAMADOL is not recommended to be used in nursing women and during labour and delivery unless, in the judgement of the physician, the potential benefits outweigh the risks. Life-threatening respiratory depression can occur in the infant if opioids are administered to the mother. Naloxone, a drug that counters the effects of opiates, should be readily available if TRAMADOL is used in this population.

Following a single 100 mg i.v. dose of tramadol, the cumulative excretion in breast milk within 16 hours post-dose was 100 mcg of tramadol (0.1% of the maternal dose) and 27 mcg of M1.

Some women are CYP2D6 ultra-rapid metabolizers of tramadol, which may lead to dangerously

higher-than-expected serum levels of M1 that could pass to their breast-fed infants. Therefore, maternal use of tramadol can lead to serious adverse reactions, including death in nursing infants (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Respiratory**).

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age): The safety and efficacy of tramadol hydrochloride has not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, use of TRAMADOL tablets is not recommended in patients under 18 years of age. Further, adolescent patients (12 to 18 years old) who are obese or have conditions such as obstructive sleep apnea or severe lung disease may be at increased risk of serious breathing problems; the use of TRAMADOL is not recommended in these pediatrics patients.

Geriatrics (> 65 years of age): In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range and titrate slowly, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function and concomitant disease or other drug therapy. In patients over 75 years of age, daily doses in excess of 300 mg are not recommended (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions**).

A total of 455 elderly (65 years of age or older) subjects were exposed to tramadol hydrochloride in controlled clinical trials. Of those, 145 subjects were 75 years of age and older. In studies including geriatric patients, treatment-limiting adverse events were higher in subjects over 75 years of age compared to those under 65 years of age. Specifically, 30% of those over 75 years of age had gastrointestinal treatment-limiting adverse events compared to 17% of those under 65 years of age. Constipation resulted in discontinuation of treatment in 10% of those over 75.

Patients with Hepatic Impairment

TRAMADOL is contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). Metabolism of tramadol and M1 is reduced in patients with advanced cirrhosis of the liver. In cirrhotic patients, adjustment of the dosing regimen is recommended (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

With the prolonged half-life in these conditions, achievement of steady-state is delayed, so that it may take several days for elevated plasma concentrations to develop.

Patients with Renal Impairment

TRAMADOL is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). Impaired renal function results in a decreased rate and extent of excretion of tramadol and its active metabolite, M1. Metabolism of tramadol and M1 is reduced in patients with advanced cirrhosis of the liver. In cirrhotic patients, adjustment of the dosing regimen is recommended (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

With the prolonged half-life in these conditions, achievement of steady-state is delayed, so that it may take several days for elevated plasma concentrations to develop.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse Drug Reaction Overview

Adverse effects of TRAMADOL (tramadol hydrochloride) tablets are similar to those of other opioid analgesics, and represent an extension of pharmacological effects of the drug class. The major hazards of opioids include respiratory and central nervous system depression and to a lesser

degree, circulatory depression, respiratory arrest, shock and cardiac arrest.

The most frequently observed adverse reactions are dizziness, nausea, constipation, headache, somnolence and vomiting as presented in Table 1.1.

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.

Incidence of Adverse Reactions for Tramadol Hydrochloride in Chronic Trials of Non-Malignant Pain - (non-titration trials)

Tramadol hydrochloride was administered to 550 patients during the double-blind or open-label extension periods in studies of chronic non-malignant pain. Of these patients, 375 were 65 years old or older. Table 1.1 reports the cumulative incidence rate of adverse reactions by 7, 30 and 90 days for the most frequent reactions (5% or more by 7 days). The most frequently reported events were in the central nervous system and gastrointestinal system. The overall incidence rates of adverse experiences in these trials were similar for tramadol hydrochloride and the active control groups, acetaminophen with codeine, and aspirin with codeine; however, the rates of withdrawals due to adverse events appeared to be higher in the tramadol hydrochloride group. In the tramadol treatment groups, 16.8-24.5% of patients withdrew due to an AE, compared to 9.6-11.6% for acetaminophen with codeine and 18.5% for aspirin with codeine.

Table 1.1: Cumulative Incidence of Adverse Reactions for Tramadol Hydrochloride in Chronic Trials of Non-Malignant Pain

	Percentage of Patients with Adverse Reaction		
	N = 427		
	Up to 7 Days	Up to 30 Days	Up to 90 Days
Dizziness/Vertigo	26%	31%	33%
Nausea	24%	34%	40%
Constipation	24%	38%	46%
Headache	18%	26%	32%
Somnolence	16%	23%	25%
Vomiting	9%	13%	17%
Pruritus	8%	10%	11%
“CNS Stimulation” ^a	7%	11%	14%
Asthenia	6%	11%	12%
Sweating	6%	7%	9%
Dyspepsia	5%	9%	13%
Dry Mouth	5%	9%	10%
Diarrhea	5%	6%	10%

^a “CNS Stimulation” is a composite of nervousness, anxiety, agitation, tremor, spasticity, euphoria, emotional lability and hallucinations

Two titration trials showed that the incidence of withdrawal due to AEs could be significantly reduced by using dose titration.

Incidence of Adverse Reactions for Tramadol Hydrochloride CAPSS-047 Titration Trial
 In the double-blind phase of this pivotal trial, gastrointestinal complaints (primarily nausea and vomiting) and dizziness were the adverse events reported most frequently by tramadol-treated subjects, Table 1.2. Most of the adverse events were assessed as mild or moderate in intensity and resolved.

Table 1.2 Adverse Events in CAPSS-047 - Double-Blind Phase - Frequently Reported ($\geq 2\%$ ^a) Adverse Events^b and Total Incidence of AEs Summarized by WHOART Body System, Treatment Group and Preferred Term

AEs in CAPSS-047 Double-Blind Phase $\geq 2\%$ of patients						
Tramadol Group/Titration Schedule						
Body System	10-days to 200 mg/day N = 54		16-days to 200 mg/day N = 59		13-days to 150 mg/day N = 54	
Preferred Term	n	%	n	%	n	%
Any Adverse Event	41	75.9	41	69.5	33	61.1
Body as a Whole – General Disorders						
Influenza-like symptoms	0	0.0	2	3.4	0	0.0
Pain	1	1.9	2	3.4	0	0.0
Fatigue	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.7
Central and Peripheral Nervous System Disorders						
Dizziness	4	7.4	4	6.8	4	7.4
Headache	10	18.5	9	15.3	7	13.0
Gastrointestinal System Disorders						
Mouth Dry	0	0.0	1	1.7	3	5.6
Constipation	4	7.4	2	3.4	6	11.1
Diarrhea	4	7.4	3	5.1	1	1.9
Vomiting	10	18.5	7	11.9	4	7.4
Nausea	29	53.7	25	42.4	18	33.3
Psychiatric Disorders						
Insomnia	1	1.9	2	3.4	2	3.7
Somnolence	5	9.3	4	6.8	0	0.0
Reproductive Disorders, Female						
Menstrual Disorder	0	0.0	2	2.0	0	0.0
Reproductive Disorders, Male						
Epididymitis	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1
Respiratory Systems Disorders						
Coughing	0	0.0	3	5.1	0	0.0
Sinusitis	1	1.9	2	3.4	2	3.7
Upper Resp Tract Infection	2	3.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Skin and Appendages Disorders						
Pruritus	2	3.7	1	1.7	4	7.4
Rash	0	0.0	2	3.4	2	3.7

^a Preferred terms reported by $\geq 2\%$ of subjects in one or more treatment groups, intent-to-treat population.

^b Number of patients with adverse event; numbers shown are all events regardless of relationship to study drug.

Sedation: Sedation is a common side effect of opioid analgesics, especially in opioid naïve individuals. Sedation may also occur partly because patients often recuperate from prolonged fatigue after the relief of persistent pain. Most patients develop tolerance to the sedative effects of opioids within three to five days and, if the sedation is not severe, will not require any treatment except reassurance. If excessive sedation persists beyond a few days, the dose of the opioid should be reduced and alternate causes investigated. Some of these are: concurrent CNS depressant medication, hepatic or renal dysfunction, brain metastases, hypercalcemia and respiratory failure. If it is necessary to reduce the dose, it can be carefully increased again after three or four days if it is obvious that the pain is not being well controlled. Dizziness and unsteadiness may be caused by

postural hypotension, particularly in elderly or debilitated patients, and may be alleviated if the patient lies down.

Nausea and Vomiting: Nausea is a common side effect on initiation of therapy with opioid analgesics and is thought to occur by activation of the chemoreceptor trigger zone, stimulation of the vestibular apparatus and through delayed gastric emptying. The prevalence of nausea declines following continued treatment with opioid analgesics. When instituting therapy with an opioid for chronic pain, the routine prescription of an antiemetic should be considered. In the cancer patient, investigation of nausea should include such causes as constipation, bowel obstruction, uremia, hypercalcemia, hepatomegaly, tumor invasion of celiac plexus and concurrent use of drugs with emetogenic properties. Persistent nausea which does not respond to dosage reduction may be caused by opioid-induced gastric stasis and may be accompanied by other symptoms including anorexia, early satiety, vomiting and abdominal fullness. These symptoms respond to chronic treatment with gastrointestinal prokinetic agents.

Constipation: Practically all patients become constipated while taking opioids on a persistent basis. In some patients, particularly the elderly or bedridden, fecal impaction may result. It is essential to caution the patients in this regard and to institute an appropriate regimen of bowel management at the start of prolonged opioid therapy. Stimulant laxatives, stool softeners, and other appropriate measures should be used as required. As fecal impaction may present as overflow diarrhea, the presence of constipation should be excluded in patients on opioid therapy prior to initiating treatment for diarrhea.

Incidence 1% to less than 5% possibly causally related: the following lists adverse reactions that occurred with an incidence of 1% to less than 5% in clinical trials, and for which the possibility of a causal relationship with tramadol hydrochloride exists.

Body as a Whole: Malaise.

Cardiovascular: Vasodilation.

Central Nervous System: Anxiety, Confusion, Coordination disturbance, Euphoria, Miosis, Nervousness, Sleep disorder.

Gastrointestinal: Abdominal pain, Anorexia, Flatulence.

Musculoskeletal: Hypertonia.

Skin: Rash.

Special Senses: Visual disturbance.

Urogenital: Menopausal symptoms, Urinary frequency, Urinary retention.

Incidence less than 1%, possibly causally related: the following lists adverse reactions that occurred with an incidence of less than 1% in clinical trials and/or reported in post-marketing experience.

Body as a Whole: Accidental injury, Allergic reaction, Anaphylaxis, Death, Suicidal tendency, Weight loss, Serotonin syndrome (mental status change, hyperreflexia, fever, shivering, tremor, agitation, diaphoresis, seizures and coma).

Cardiovascular: Orthostatic hypotension, Syncope, Tachycardia.

Central Nervous System: Abnormal gait, Amnesia, Cognitive dysfunction, Depression, Difficulty in concentration, Hallucinations, Paresthesia, Seizure (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**), Tremor.

Respiratory: Dyspnea.

Skin: Stevens-Johnson syndrome/Toxic epidermal necrolysis, Urticaria, Vesicles.

Special Senses: Dysgeusia.

Urogenital: Dysuria, Menstrual disorder.

The following adverse effects occur less frequently with opioid analgesics and include those reported in TRAMADOL clinical trials, whether related or not to tramadol hydrochloride.

Other adverse experiences, causal relationship unknown: A variety of other adverse events were reported infrequently in patients taking tramadol hydrochloride during clinical trials and/or reported in post-marketing experience. A causal relationship between tramadol hydrochloride and these events has not been determined. However, the most significant events are listed below as alerting information to the physician.

Cardiovascular: Abnormal ECG, Hypertension, Hypotension, Myocardial ischemia, Palpitations, Pulmonary edema, Pulmonary embolism.

Central Nervous System: Migraine, Speech disorders.

Gastrointestinal: Gastrointestinal bleeding, Hepatitis, Stomatitis, Liver failure.

Laboratory Abnormalities: Creatinine increase, Elevated liver enzymes, Hemoglobin decrease, Proteinuria.

Sensory: Cataracts, Deafness, Tinnitus.

Other Adverse Experiences Previously Reported in Clinical Trials or Post-Marketing Reports

Adverse events which have been reported with the use of tramadol products include: allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis, angioneurotic edema and urticaria), bradycardia, convulsions, drug dependence, drug withdrawal (including agitation, anxiety, gastrointestinal symptoms, hyperkinesia, insomnia, nervousness, tremors), hyperactivity, hypoactivity, hypotension, worsening of asthma and respiratory depression. Other adverse events which have been reported with the use of tramadol products and for which a causal association has not been determined include: difficulty concentrating, hepatitis, liver failure, pulmonary edema, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and suicidal tendency.

Serotonin syndrome (whose symptoms may include mental status change, hyperreflexia, fever, shivering, tremor, agitation, diaphoresis, seizures and coma) has been reported with tramadol when used concomitantly with other serotonergic agents such as SSRIs and MAOIs. Post-marketing experience with the use of tramadol-containing products included rare reports of delirium, miosis, mydriasis, and speech disorder, and very rare reports of movement disorder including dyskinesia and dystonia.

Electrocardiogram QT prolonged, ventricular fibrillation, and ventricular tachycardia have been reported during post-market use.

Cases of hypoglycemia have been reported in patients taking tramadol, mostly in patients with pre-disposing risk factors, including diabetes, elderly and renal insufficiency. Caution should be exercised when prescribing tramadol to diabetic patients. More frequent monitoring of blood glucose levels may be appropriate, including at initiation or dose increase.

Androgen deficiency: Chronic use of opioids may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis, leading to androgen deficiency that may manifest as low libido, impotence, erectile dysfunction, amenorrhea, or infertility. The causal role of opioids in the clinical syndrome of hypogonadism is unknown because the various medical, physical, lifestyle, and psychological stressors that may influence gonadal hormone levels have not been adequately controlled for in

studies conducted to date. Patients presenting with symptoms of androgen deficiency should undergo laboratory evaluation.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Overview

In vitro studies indicate that tramadol is unlikely to inhibit the CYP3A4-mediated metabolism of other drugs when tramadol is administered concomitantly at therapeutic doses. Tramadol does not appear to induce its own metabolism in humans, since observed maximal plasma concentrations after multiple oral doses are higher than expected based on single-dose data. Tramadol is a mild inducer of selected drug metabolism pathways measured in animals.

Drug-Drug Interactions

Interactions with Benzodiazepines and Other Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants:

Due to additive pharmacologic effect, the concomitant use of benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (e.g., other opioids, sedatives/hypnotics, antidepressants, anxiolytics, tranquilizers, muscle relaxants, general anesthetics, antipsychotics, phenothiazines, neuroleptics, antihistamines, antiemetics, and alcohol) and beta-blockers, increases the risk of respiratory depression, profound sedation, coma, and death. Reserve concomitant prescribing of these drugs for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate. Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required. Follow patients closely for signs of respiratory depression and sedation (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic, Interactions with Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol) and Psychomotor Impairment**). TRAMADOL should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects.

Use with MAO Inhibitors

TRAMADOL is contraindicated in patients receiving MAO inhibitors or who have used them within the previous 14 days (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**).

Drugs that Lower Seizure Threshold

Tramadol can increase the potential for selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), anti-psychotics and other seizure threshold lowering drugs to cause convulsions. If concomitant treatment of TRAMADOL with a drug affecting the serotonergic neurotransmitter system is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised, particularly during treatment initiation and dose increases (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Seizure Risk**).

Serotonergic Agents

The development of a potentially life-threatening serotonin syndrome may occur with use of tramadol products, including TRAMADOL, particularly with concomitant use of serotonergic drugs such as SSRIs, SNRIs, TCAs, triptans, MAO inhibitors such as linezolid and methylene blue, lithium or St. John's Wort, serotonin-precursors such as L-tryptophan, with drugs which impair metabolism of serotonin and with drugs which may impair metabolism of tramadol (CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 inhibitors). If concomitant treatment of TRAMADOL with a drug affecting the serotonergic neurotransmitter system is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised, particularly during treatment initiation and dose increases (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Seizure Risk**).

Use with Carbamazepine

Patients taking carbamazepine may have a significantly reduced analgesic effect of tramadol hydrochloride. Because carbamazepine increases tramadol metabolism and because of the seizure risk associated with tramadol, concomitant administration of TRAMADOL and carbamazepine is not recommended.

Use with Quinidine

Tramadol is metabolized to M1 by the CYP2D6 P450 isoenzyme. Quinidine is a selective inhibitor of that isoenzyme, so that concomitant administration of quinidine and tramadol hydrochloride results in increased concentrations of tramadol and reduced concentrations of M1. The clinical consequences of these findings are unknown. *In vitro* drug interaction studies in human liver microsomes indicate that tramadol has no effect on quinidine metabolism.

Use with CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 Inhibitors

Concomitant administration of CYP2D6 and/or CYP3A4 inhibitors (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics**), such as quinidine, fluoxetine, paroxetine, amitriptyline (CYP2D6 inhibitors), ketoconazole and erythromycin (CYP3A4 inhibitors), may reduce metabolic clearance of tramadol, increasing the risk for serious adverse events including seizures, serotonin syndrome and QTc interval prolongation, potentially resulting in cardiac arrhythmias.

QTc Interval-Prolonging Drugs:

The concomitant use of TRAMADOL with QTc interval-prolonging drugs should be avoided. Drugs that have been associated with QTc interval prolongation and/or torsade de pointes include, but are not limited to, the examples in the following list. Chemical/pharmacological classes are listed if some, although not necessarily all, class members have been implicated in QTc interval prolongation and/or torsade de pointes:

- Class IA antiarrhythmics (e.g., quinidine, procainamide, disopyramide)
- Class III antiarrhythmics (e.g., amiodarone, sotalol, ibutilide, dronedarone)
- Class IC antiarrhythmics (e.g., flecainide, propafenone)
- antipsychotics (e.g., chlorpromazine, pimozide, haloperidol, droperidol, ziprasidone, risperidone)
- antidepressants (e.g., fluoxetine, citalopram, venlafaxine, tricyclic/tetracyclic antidepressants [e.g., amitriptyline, imipramine, maprotiline])
- opioids (e.g., methadone)
- macrolide antibiotics and analogues (e.g., erythromycin, clarithromycin, azithromycin, tacrolimus)
- quinolone antibiotics (e.g., moxifloxacin, levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin)
- pentamidine
- antimalarials (e.g., quinine, chloroquine)
- azole antifungals (e.g., ketoconazole, fluconazole, voriconazole)

- domperidone
- 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT)₃ receptor antagonists (e.g., ondansetron)
- tyrosine kinase inhibitors (e.g., sunitinib, nilotinib, ceritinib, vandetanib)
- arsenic trioxide
- histone deacetylase inhibitors (e.g., vorinostat)

- beta-2 adrenoceptor agonists (e.g., salmeterol, formoterol)

Drugs that Affect Electrolytes

The use of TRAMADOL with drugs that can decrease electrolyte levels should be avoided to the extent possible. Drugs that can decrease electrolyte levels include, but are not limited to, the following:

- loop, thiazide, and related diuretics
- laxatives and enemas
- amphotericin B
- high-dose corticosteroids
- proton pump inhibitors

The above list of potentially interacting drugs is not comprehensive. Current information sources should be consulted for newly approved drugs that prolong the QTc interval or decrease electrolytes, as well as for older drugs for which these effects have recently been established. (See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Cardiovascular; ADVERSE REACTIONS,

Other Adverse Experiences Previously Reported in Clinical Trials or Post-Marketing Reports; ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Cardiac Electrophysiology).

Use with Cimetidine

Concomitant administration of tramadol hydrochloride and cimetidine does not result in clinically significant changes in tramadol pharmacokinetics. Therefore, no alteration of the tramadol hydrochloride dosage regimen is recommended.

Use with Digoxin

Post-marketing surveillance of tramadol has revealed rare reports of digoxin toxicity.

Use with Warfarin-like Compounds

Post-marketing surveillance of tramadol has revealed rare alterations of warfarin effect, including elevation of prothrombin times.

Periodic evaluation of prothrombin time should be performed when TRAMADOL tablets and warfarin-like compounds are administered concurrently.

Drug-Food Interactions

Oral administration of TRAMADOL with food does not significantly affect its rate or extent of absorption; therefore, TRAMADOL can be administered without regard to food.

Drug-Lifestyle Interactions

The concomitant use of alcohol should be avoided (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Serious Warnings and Precautions Box**).

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

TRAMADOL should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options are ineffective or not tolerated (e.g., non-opioid analgesics).

Do not crush, chew or dissolve TRAMADOL tablets. This can lead to dangerous adverse events including death (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

For acute pain, it is recommended that TRAMADOL be used for a maximum of 7 days at the lowest dose that provides adequate pain relief.

All doses of opioids carry an inherent risk of fatal or non-fatal adverse events. This risk is increased with higher doses. For the management of chronic non-cancer, non-palliative pain, it is recommended that a maximum daily dosage of 400 mg (66.7 morphine milligram equivalent) of TRAMADOL not be exceeded. Each patient should be assessed for their risk prior to prescribing TRAMADOL, as the likelihood of experiencing serious adverse events can depend upon the type of opioid, duration of treatment, level of pain as well as the patient's own level of tolerance. In addition, the level of pain should be assessed routinely to confirm the most appropriate dose and the need for further use of TRAMADOL (see Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment below).

Dosing Considerations

TRAMADOL (tramadol hydrochloride) tablets should only be used during post-operative period in patients that can take oral medications (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Peri-operative Considerations).**

TRAMADOL is not indicated for rectal administration.

Do not co-administer TRAMADOL tablets with other tramadol-containing products.

Due to the differences in pharmacokinetic properties, TRAMADOL tablets are not interchangeable with tramadol extended-release formulations.

TRAMADOL may be taken with or without food.

The maximum recommended dose of TRAMADOL should not be exceeded.

Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

Good pain management practice dictates that the dose be individualized according to patient need using the lowest beneficial dose. Studies with tramadol in adults have shown that starting at the lowest possible dose and titrating upward will result in fewer discontinuations and increased tolerability.

Adults:

Dose Titration:

Dose titration is the key to success with opioid analgesic therapy. **Proper optimization of doses scaled to the relief of the individual's pain should aim at administration of the lowest dose which will achieve the overall treatment goal of satisfactory pain relief with acceptable side effects.**

Dosage adjustments should be based on the patient's clinical response.

For patients with moderate to moderately severe chronic pain not requiring rapid onset of analgesic effect, the tolerability of TRAMADOL can be improved by initiating therapy with the following titration regimen: TRAMADOL should be started at 25 mg/day (half TRAMADOL

scored tablet) qAM and titrated in 25 mg increments as separate doses every 3 days to reach 100 mg/day (25 mg q.i.d.). Thereafter the total daily dose may be increased by 50 mg as tolerated every 3 days to reach 200 mg/day (50 mg q.i.d.) as shown in Table 1.3 below.

Days 1 to 3	Days 4 to 6	Days 7 to 9	Days 10 to 12	Days 13 to 15	Days 16 to 18
Initiate at 25 mg (AM) (half TRAMADOL scored tablet)	25 mg b.i.d.	25 mg t.i.d.	25 mg q.i.d.	50 mg t.i.d.	50 mg q.i.d.

After titration, TRAMADOL 50 to 100 mg can be administered as needed for pain relief every 4 to 6 hours **not to exceed 400 mg/day**.

For the subset of patients for whom rapid onset of analgesic effect is required and for whom the benefits outweigh the risk of discontinuation due to adverse events associated with higher initial doses, TRAMADOL 50 mg to 100 mg can be administered as needed for pain relief every 4 to 6 hours, **not to exceed 400 mg per day**.

Patients with Renal Impairment:

TRAMADOL is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Patients with Hepatic Impairment:

TRAMADOL is contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). The recommended dose for adult patients with cirrhosis is 50 mg every 12 hours.

Geriatrics: (> 65 years old):

Respiratory depression has occurred in the elderly following administration of large initial doses of opioids to patients who were not opioid-tolerant or when opioids were co-administered with other agents that can depress respiration. TRAMADOL should be initiated at a low dose and slowly titrated to effect. For elderly patients **over 75 years old**, total dose should not exceed 300 mg/day (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**).

Pediatric Patients (< 18 years old):

The safety and effectiveness of tramadol hydrochloride has not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, use of TRAMADOL tablets is not recommended in patients under 18 years of age.

Use with Non-Opioid Medications:

If a non-opioid analgesic is being provided, it may be continued. If the non-opioid is discontinued, consideration should be given to increasing the opioid dose to compensate for the non-opioid analgesic. TRAMADOL can be safely used concomitantly with usual doses of other non-opioid analgesics.

Management of Patients Requiring Rescue Medication:

If TRAMADOL is used as rescue medication in conjunction with extended-release tramadol tablets, the total daily dose of tramadol should not exceed 400 mg. Fentanyl products should not be used as rescue medication in patients taking TRAMADOL.

Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage:

Physical dependence with or without psychological dependence tends to occur with chronic administration of opioids, including TRAMADOL. Withdrawal (abstinence) symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy. These symptoms may include body aches, diarrhea, gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nausea, nervousness or restlessness, runny nose, sneezing, tremors or shivering, stomach cramps, tachycardia, trouble with sleeping, unusual increase in sweating, palpitations, unexplained fever, weakness and yawning.

Following successful relief of moderate to severe pain, periodic attempts to reduce the opioid dose should be made. Smaller doses or complete discontinuation may become feasible due to a change in the patient's condition or mental state. Patients on prolonged therapy should be withdrawn gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. In patients who are appropriately treated with opioid analgesics and who undergo gradual withdrawal for the drug, these symptoms are usually mild (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**). Tapering should be carried out under medical supervision.

Patients should be informed that reducing and/or discontinuing opioids decreases their tolerance to these drugs. If treatment needs to be re-initiated, the patient must start at the lowest dose and titrate up to avoid overdose.

Disposal

TRAMADOL should be kept in a safe place, out of the sight and reach of children before, during and after use. TRAMADOL should not be used in front of children, since they may copy these actions.

TRAMADOL should never be disposed of in household trash. Disposal via a pharmacy take back program is recommended. Unused or expired TRAMADOL should be properly disposed of as soon as it is no longer needed to prevent accidental exposure to others, including children or pets. If temporary storage is required before disposal, a sealed child-proof container, such as a biohazard waste container or a lockable medication box could be obtained from a pharmacy.

Missed Dose

If the patient forgets to take one or more doses, they should take their next dose at the next scheduled time and in the normal amount.

OVERDOSAGE

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre immediately.

Symptoms

Symptoms of overdose with tramadol hydrochloride are respiratory depression, somnolence progressing to stupor or coma, skeletal muscle flaccidity, cold and clammy skin, constricted pupils,

seizures, bradycardia, hypotension, cardiac arrest, and death. In addition, cases of QT prolongation have been reported during overdose.

Deaths due to overdose have been reported with abuse and misuse of tramadol (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Abuse and Misuse**). Review of case reports has indicated that the risk of fatal overdose is further increased when tramadol is abused concurrently with alcohol or other CNS depressants, including other opioids.

Treatment

A single or multiple overdose with tramadol hydrochloride may be a potentially lethal polydrug overdose, and consultation with a regional poison control centre is recommended.

In treating an overdose of tramadol hydrochloride, primary attention should be given to maintaining adequate ventilation along with general supportive treatment. Supportive measures (including oxygen and vasopressors) should be employed in the management of circulatory shock and pulmonary edema accompanying overdose as indicated. Cardiac arrest or arrhythmias may require cardiac massage or defibrillation.

While naloxone will reverse some, but not all, symptoms caused by overdosage with tramadol, the risk of seizures is also increased with naloxone administration. Seizures may be controlled with diazepam.

In animals, convulsions following the administration of toxic doses of tramadol could be suppressed with barbiturates or benzodiazepines but were increased with naloxone. Naloxone administration did not change the lethality of an overdose in mice.

Based on experience with tramadol, hemodialysis is not expected to be helpful in an overdose because it removes less than 7% of the administered dose in a 4-hour dialysis period.

Emptying of the gastric contents is useful to remove any unabsorbed drug.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Tramadol hydrochloride is a centrally acting synthetic opioid analgesic. Although its mode of action is not completely understood, from animal tests, at least two complementary mechanisms appear applicable: binding of parent and M1 metabolite to μ -opioid receptors and weak inhibition of reuptake of norepinephrine and serotonin.

Opioid activity is due to both low affinity binding of the parent compound and higher affinity binding of the O-demethylated metabolite M1 to μ -opioid receptors. In animal models, M1 is up to 6 times more potent than tramadol in producing analgesia and 200 times more potent in μ -opioid binding. Tramadol-induced analgesia is only partially antagonized by the opiate antagonist naloxone in several animal tests. The relative contribution of both tramadol and M1 to human analgesia is dependent upon the plasma concentrations of each compound (see **Pharmacokinetics**).

Tramadol has been shown to inhibit reuptake of norepinephrine and serotonin *in vitro*, as have some other opioid analgesics. These mechanisms may contribute independently to the overall

analgesic profile of tramadol hydrochloride. Analgesia in humans begins approximately within one hour after administration and reaches a peak in approximately two to three hours.

Apart from analgesia, tramadol hydrochloride administration may produce a constellation of symptoms (including dizziness, somnolence, nausea, constipation, sweating and pruritus) similar to that of opioids. In contrast to morphine, tramadol has not been shown to cause histamine release. At therapeutic doses, tramadol hydrochloride has no effect on heart rate, left-ventricular function or cardiac index. Orthostatic hypotension has been observed.

Pharmacodynamics

Central Nervous System:

Tramadol produces respiratory depression by direct action on brain stem respiratory centres. The respiratory depression involves both a reduction in the responsiveness of the brain stem centres to increases in CO₂ tension and to electrical stimulation.

Tramadol depresses the cough reflex by direct effect on the cough centre in the medulla. Antitussive effects may occur with doses lower than those usually required for analgesia.

Tramadol causes miosis, even in total darkness. Pinpoint pupils are a sign of opioid overdose but are not pathognomonic (e.g., pontine lesions of hemorrhagic or ischemic origin may produce similar findings). Marked mydriasis rather than miosis may be seen with hypoxia in the setting of oxycodone overdose.

Gastrointestinal Tract and Other Smooth Muscle:

Tramadol causes a reduction in motility associated with an increase in smooth muscle tone in the antrum of the stomach and duodenum. Digestion of food in the small intestine is delayed and propulsive contractions are decreased. Propulsive peristaltic waves in the colon are decreased, while tone may be increased to the point of spasm resulting in constipation. Other opioid-induced effects may include a reduction in gastric, biliary and pancreatic secretions, spasm of the sphincter of Oddi, and transient elevations in serum amylase.

Endocrine System:

Opioids may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal or -gonadal axes. Some changes that can be seen include an increase in serum prolactin, and decreases in plasma cortisol and testosterone. Clinical signs and symptoms may be manifest from these hormonal changes.

Immune System:

In vitro and animal studies indicate that opioids have a variety of effects on immune functions, depending on the context in which they are used. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

Cardiac Electrophysiology:

In a randomized, double-blind, 4-way crossover, placebo- and positive-controlled, multiple dose ECG assessment study in healthy subjects (N=62), the following tramadol treatments were tested: A) 100 mg every 6 h on days 1 to 3 (400 mg/day), with a single 100 mg dose on day 4 and B) 150 mg every 6 h (600 mg/day) on days 1 to 3, with a single 150 mg dose on day 4. The maximum dose for TRAMADOL is 300 mg/day. In both treatment arms, the maximum difference from placebo in the mean change from baseline QTcF interval occurred at the 8 h time point: 5.5

ms (90% CI 3.2, 7.8) in the 400 mg/day treatment arm and 6.5 ms (90% CI 4.1, 8.8) in the 600 mg/day mg treatment arm. Both treatment groups were within the 10 ms threshold for QT prolongation (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Cardiovascular; ADVERSE REACTIONS, Other Adverse Experiences Previously Reported in Clinical Trials or Post-Marketing Reports; **DRUG INTERACTIONS**, QTc Interval-Prolonging Drugs; **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**, Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment; **OVERDOSAGE**).

Pharmacokinetics

The analgesic activity of tramadol hydrochloride is due to both parent drug and the M1 metabolite (see **Mechanism of Action**). Tramadol is administered as a racemate and both the [-] and [+] forms of both tramadol and M1 are detected in the circulation. Tramadol is well absorbed orally with an absolute bioavailability of 75%. Tramadol has a volume of distribution of approximately 2.7 L/kg and is only 20% bound to plasma proteins. Tramadol is extensively metabolized by a number of pathways, including CYP2D6 and CYP3A4, as well as by conjugation of parent and metabolites. One metabolite, M1, is pharmacologically active in animal models. The formation of M1 is dependent upon CYP2D6 and as such is subject to inhibition, which may affect the therapeutic response (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**). Tramadol and its metabolites are excreted primarily in the urine with observed plasma half-lives of 6.3 and 7.4 hours for tramadol and M1, respectively. Linear pharmacokinetics have been observed following multiple doses of 50 and 100 mg to steady-state.

Absorption:

Racemic tramadol is rapidly and almost completely absorbed after oral administration. The mean absolute bioavailability of a 100 mg oral dose is approximately 75%. The mean peak plasma concentration of racemic tramadol and M1 occurs at two and three hours, respectively, after administration in healthy adults. In general, both enantiomers of tramadol and M1 follow a parallel time course in the body following single and multiple doses although small differences (~10%) exist in the absolute amount of each enantiomer present.

Steady-state plasma concentrations of both tramadol and M1 are achieved within two days with q.i.d. dosing. There is no evidence of self-induction (see Figure 1.1 and Table 1.4 below).

Figure 1.1: Mean Tramadol and M1 Plasma Concentration Profiles after a Single 100 mg Oral Dose and after Twenty-Nine 100 mg Oral Doses of Tramadol HCl Given q.i.d.

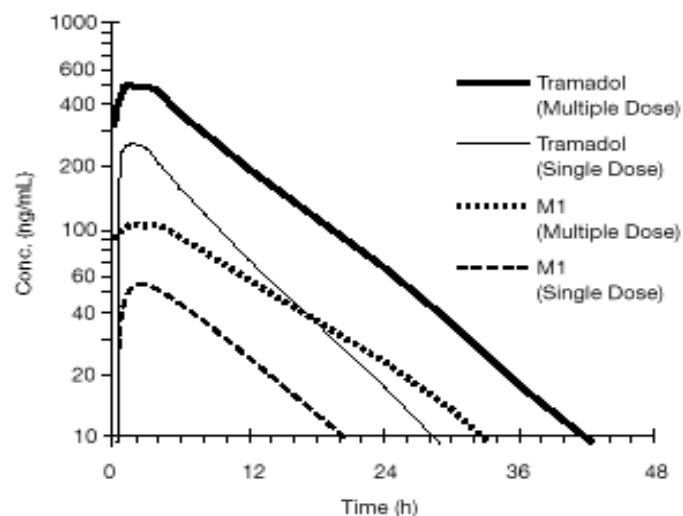


Table 1.4 Mean (%CV) Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Racemic Tramadol and M1 Metabolite

Population/ Dosage Regimen ^a	Parent Drug/ Metabolite	C _{max} (ng/mL)	Time to Peak (hrs)	Clearance/F ^b (mL/min/kg)	t _{1/2} (hrs)
Healthy Adults, 100 mg q.i.d., MD p.o.	Tramadol	592 (30)	2.3 (61)	5.90 (25)	6.7 (15)
	M1	110 (29)	2.4 (46)	c	7.0 (14)
Healthy Adults, 100 mg SD p.o.	Tramadol	308 (25)	1.6 (63)	8.50 (31)	5.6 (20)
	M1	55.0 (36)	3.0 (51)	c	6.7 (16)
Geriatric, (>75 yrs) 50 mg SD p.o.	Tramadol	208 (31)	2.1 (19)	6.89 (25)	7.0 (23)
	M1	d	d	c	d
Hepatic Impaired, 50 mg SD p.o.	Tramadol	217 (11)	1.9 (16)	4.23 (56)	13.3 (11)
	M1	19.4 (12)	9.8 (20)	c	18.5 (15)
Renal Impaired, CL _{cr} 10-30 mL/min 100 mg SD i.v.	Tramadol	c	c	4.23 (54)	10.6 (31)
	M1	c	c	c	11.5 (40)
Renal Impaired, CL _{cr} <5 mL/min 100 mg SD i.v.	Tramadol	c	c	3.73 (17)	11.0 (29)
	M1	c	c	c	16.9 (18)

^a SD = Single dose, MD = Multiple dose, p.o.= Oral administration, i.v.= Intravenous administration, q.i.d. = Four times daily

^b F represents the oral bioavailability of tramadol

^c Not applicable

^d Not measured

Distribution:

The volume of distribution of tramadol was 2.6 and 2.9 L/kg in male and female subjects, respectively, following a 100 mg intravenous dose. The binding of tramadol to human plasma proteins is approximately 20% and binding also appears to be independent of concentration up to 10 mcg/mL. Saturation of plasma protein binding occurs only at concentrations outside the clinically relevant range.

Metabolism:

Following oral administration, tramadol is extensively metabolized by a number of pathways, including CYP2D6 and CYP3A4, as well as by conjugation of parent and metabolites. Approximately 30% of the dose is excreted in the urine as unchanged drug, whereas 60% of the dose is excreted as metabolites. The major metabolic pathways appear to be *N*- and *O*-demethylation and glucuronidation or sulfation in the liver. Metabolite M1 (*O*-desmethyltramadol) is pharmacologically active in animal models. Formation of M1 is dependent on CYP2D6 and as such is subject to inhibition, which may affect the therapeutic response (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

Approximately 7% of the population has reduced activity of the CYP2D6 isoenzyme of cytochrome P450. These individuals are “poor metabolizers” of debrisoquine, dextromethorphan, and tricyclic antidepressants, among other drugs. Based on a population PK analysis of Phase I studies in healthy subjects, concentrations of tramadol were approximately 20% higher in “poor metabolizers” versus “extensive metabolizers”, while M1 concentrations were 40% lower. *In vitro* drug interaction studies in human liver microsomes indicate that inhibitors of CYP2D6 such as

fluoxetine and its metabolite norfluoxetine, amitriptyline and quinidine inhibit the metabolism of tramadol to various degrees. The full pharmacological impact of these alterations in terms of either efficacy or safety is unknown. Concomitant use of serotonin reuptake inhibitors and MAO inhibitors may enhance the risk of adverse events, including seizure (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**) and serotonin syndrome.

Excretion:

Tramadol is eliminated primarily through metabolism by the liver and the metabolites are eliminated primarily by the kidneys. The mean terminal plasma elimination half-lives of racemic tramadol and racemic M1 are 6.3 ± 1.4 and 7.4 ± 1.4 hours, respectively. The plasma elimination half-life of racemic tramadol increased from approximately six hours to seven hours upon multiple dosing.

Special Populations and Conditions

Pediatrics:

Individuals under 18 years of age should not take tramadol hydrochloride tablets. The pharmacokinetics of tramadol hydrochloride tablets have not been studied in pediatric patients below 18 years of age.

Geriatrics:

Healthy elderly subjects aged 65 to 75 years have plasma tramadol concentrations and elimination half-lives comparable to those observed in healthy subjects less than 65 years of age. In subjects over 75 years, maximum serum concentrations are elevated (208 vs. 162 ng/mL) and the elimination half-life is prolonged (7 vs. 6 hours) compared to subjects 65 to 75 years of age. Adjustment of the daily dose is recommended for patients older than 75 years (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Gender:

The absolute bioavailability of tramadol was 73% in males and 79% in females. The plasma clearance was 6.4 mL/min/kg in males and 5.7 mL/min/kg in females following a 100 mg i.v. dose of tramadol. Following a single oral dose, and after adjusting for body weight, females had a 12% higher peak tramadol concentration and a 35% higher area under the concentration-time curve compared to males. The clinical significance of this difference is unknown.

Race:

Some patients are CYP2D6 ultra-rapid metabolizers of tramadol due to a specific genotype. These individuals convert tramadol into its active metabolite, M1, more rapidly and completely than other people leading to higher-than-expected serum M1 levels. The prevalence of this CYP2D6 phenotype varies widely and has been estimated at 0.5 to 1% in Chinese, Japanese and Hispanics, 1 to 10% in Caucasians, 3% in African Americans, and 16 to 28% in North Africans, Ethiopians, and Arabs. Data are not available for other ethnic groups (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Respiratory and Special Populations, Labour, Delivery and Nursing Women**).

In contrast, some patients exhibit the CYP2D6 poor metabolizer phenotype and do not convert tramadol to the active M1 metabolite sufficiently to benefit from the analgesic effect of the drug (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Overview**). The prevalence of this CYP2D6 phenotype is about

5-10 percent in Caucasians and 1 percent of Asians.

Hepatic Impairment:

Metabolism of tramadol and M1 is reduced in patients with advanced cirrhosis of the liver, resulting in both a larger area under the concentration time curve for tramadol and longer tramadol and M1 elimination half-lives (13 hrs for tramadol and 19 hrs for M1). In cirrhotic patients, adjustment of the dosing regimen is recommended (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Renal Impairment:

Excretion of tramadol and metabolite M1 is reduced in patients with creatinine clearance of less than 30 mL/min, adjustment of dosing regimen in this patient population is recommended. The total amount of tramadol and M1 removed during a 4-hour dialysis period is less than 7% of the administered dose (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store at room temperature 15°C to 30°C in a tightly closed container. Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Not applicable.

DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Composition:

TRAMADOL tablets contain 50 mg of tramadol hydrochloride and are white to off-white, capsule shaped, scored, film coated tablet. Engraved “TR” bisect “50” on one side, plain on the other side.

Inactive ingredients in the tablet are (in alphabetical order): hydroxyethyl cellulose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol and titanium dioxide.

Packaging:

TRAMADOL tablets are available in bottles of 100 tablets.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

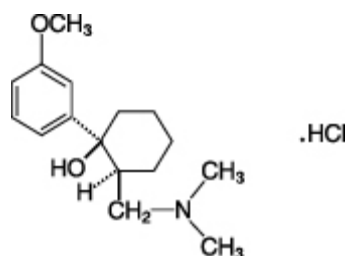
Drug Substance

Proper name: tramadol hydrochloride USP

Chemical name: (±)cis-2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-1-(3-methoxyphenyl) cyclohexanol hydrochloride

Molecular formula and molecular mass: $C_{16}H_{25}NO_2 \cdot HCl$ and 299.98 g/mol

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Tramadol hydrochloride is a white powder with a melting point between 180°C to 184°C.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Comparative Bioavailability Studies

A randomized, single dose, double-blinded, 2-way crossover comparative bioavailability study, conducted under fasting conditions, was performed on healthy male volunteers. The results obtained from 23 volunteers who completed the study are summarized in the following table. The rate and extent of absorption of tramadol was measured and compared following a single oral dose (1 x 50 mg tablet) of Apo-Tramadol (tramadol hydrochloride) 50 mg tablet (Apotex Inc.) and Ultram[®] (tramadol hydrochloride) 50 mg tablet (Janssen Inc.).

Tramadol (1 x 50 mg) From Measured Data				
Geometric Mean [#] Arithmetic Mean (CV%)				
Parameter	Test*	Reference [†]	Ratio of Geometric Means (%)	90% Confidence Interval (%)
AUC _t (ng•h/mL)	1526.28 1618.32 (33)	1548.63 1642.40 (33)	98.6	95.3 – 102.0
AUC _{inf} (ng•h/mL)	1578.41 1680.72 (35)	1600.84 1705.18 (34)	98.6	95.1– 102.2
C _{max} (ng/mL)	168.18 177.18 (33)	161.93 170.58 (32)	103.9	96.4 – 111.9
T _{max} [§] (h)	2.01 (34)	2.22 (37)		
T _{half} [§] (h)	7.49 (19)	7.31 (17)		
* Apo-Tramadol (tramadol hydrochloride) 50 mg tablets (Apotex Inc.)				
† Ultram [®] (tramadol hydrochloride) 50 mg tablets (Janssen Inc.) was purchased in Canada.				
# For balanced treatment sequence, results are based on Geometric means. For unbalanced treatment sequence, results are based on Least Squares Means (LSM).				
§ Expressed as arithmetic means (CV %) only.				

Tramadol hydrochloride was evaluated in single-dose trials (dental and surgery), multiple-dose, [short-term trials (dental and surgery), long-term trials (chronic malignant and non-malignant pain), and trials evaluating the impact of dose titration on tolerability]. Clinical trials in non-malignant pain included patients with osteoarthritis, low back pain, diabetic neuropathy and fibromyalgia. These trials included a randomized, double-blind, parallel group design, and in each of the single-dose and short-term multiple-dose trials tramadol was compared to a standard reference analgesic (either codeine, ASA/codeine or APAP/propoxyphene), placebo or to both. The active controls were included to establish model sensitivity. The efficacy of tramadol in these trials was established based on Total Pain Relief (TOTPAR), Sum of Pain Intensity Difference (SPID) and time to remedication.

Collectively, a total of 2549 patients with dental pain, 1940 patients with surgical pain, 170 patients with chronic malignant pain, 119 patients with sub-acute low back pain, and 2046 patients with chronic non-malignant pain were enrolled into the 28 efficacy trials. Of the 6824 total patients enrolled into these trials, 4075 were randomized to a tramadol treatment arm.

Study Results

Acute Pain, Single- and Multiple-Dose Studies

Tramadol has been given in single oral doses of 50, 75 and 100 mg to patients with pain following surgical procedures and pain following oral surgery (extraction of impacted molars).

Results of these trials demonstrated statistically superior pain relief for tramadol compared to placebo. Data from these key trials provide information regarding the optimal analgesic dosage range of tramadol.

In single-dose dental trials, tramadol was superior to placebo at doses of 100 mg or greater ($p \leq 0.05$). In addition, tramadol at doses of 100mg or greater were equivalent to or statistically superior to the reference analgesics for Total Pain Relief (TOTPAR) and Sum of Pain Intensity Difference (SPID) across the entire evaluation interval. The results of the multiple-dose short-term trials in acute pain also provide evidence for efficacy of tramadol in the management of acute pain.

Tramadol has been studied in three long-term controlled trials involving a total of 820 patients, with 530 patients receiving tramadol. Patients with a variety of chronic painful conditions were studied in double-blind trials of one to three months duration.

Titration Trials

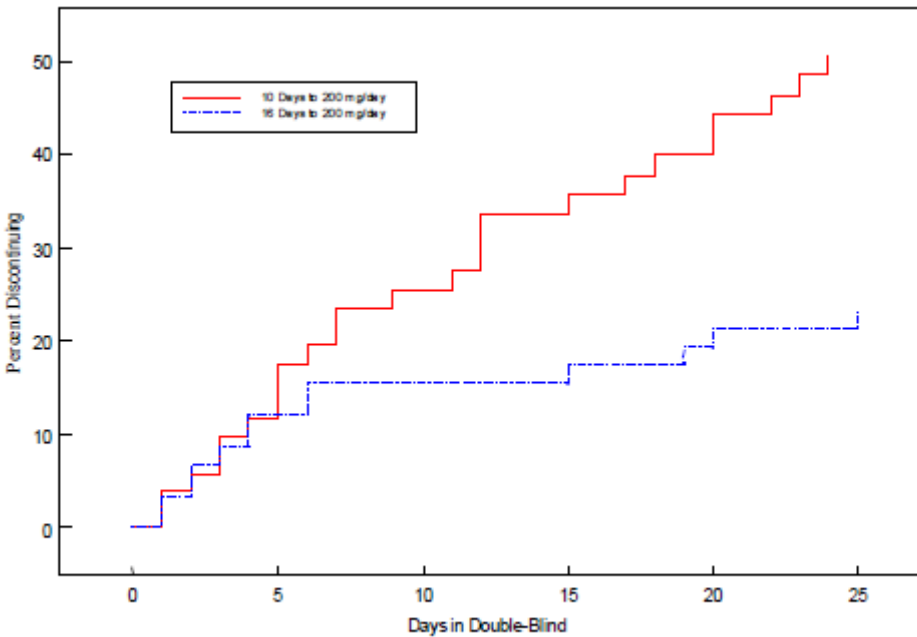
Two titration trials, TPS DOS and CAPSS-047, provide information regarding appropriate dose titration during chronic use of tramadol. These trials show that a longer titration period can significantly reduce the incidence of adverse events, and the frequency of withdrawal due to adverse events, leading to improved tolerability and overall benefit-risk profile. Efficacy evaluations in these studies suggest that slowing the rate of titration improves tolerability and does not negatively impact on drug efficacy.

In a randomized, blinded clinical study with 129 to 132 patients per group, a 10-day titration to a daily tramadol hydrochloride dose of 200 mg (50 mg q.i.d.), attained in 50 mg increments every 3 days, was found to result in fewer discontinuations due to dizziness or vertigo than titration over only 4 days or no titration. In a second study with 54 to 59 patients per group, patients who had nausea or vomiting when titrated over 4 days were randomized to re-initiate tramadol hydrochloride therapy using slower titration rates.

A 16-day titration schedule, starting with 25 mg qAM and using additional doses in 25 mg increments every third day to 100 mg/day (25 mg q.i.d.), followed by 50 mg increments in the total daily dose every third day to 200 mg/day (50 mg q.i.d.), resulted in fewer discontinuations

due to any cause than did a 10-day titration schedule. See Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Protocol CAPSS-047 – Time to Discontinuation Due to Nausea/Vomiting



DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacodynamics

Tramadol HCl, 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-1-(3-methoxyphenyl) cyclohexanol HCl, is a centrally acting synthetic analgesic compound. It is thought to produce its analgesic effect through at least two complementary mechanisms of action: agonist activity at the μ -opioid receptor and weak inhibition of neuronal monoamine reuptake. These dual activities are observed in studies conducted *in vitro* as well as in nonclinical animal models of antinociception. In studies conducted *in vitro*, tramadol inhibited binding to native rat μ -opioid receptor at approximately the same concentration at which it blocked the reuptake of norepinephrine and serotonin. The K_1 values for μ -opioid receptor affinity and monoamine reuptake inhibitory activities are 2.1 and $\sim 1 \mu\text{M}$, respectively. Tramadol affinities for recombinant human opioid receptors ($K_1 = 17 \mu\text{M}$) were slightly weaker than those observed at the rat receptors. Apart from analgesia, tramadol may produce a constellation of symptoms similar to that of an opioid.

Tramadol is an efficacious analgesic in a wide variety of standard analgesic models of acute, tonic, chronic, or neuropathic pain. In some of these studies, specific antagonists were used to probe the mechanism of tramadol's antinociceptive action. In contrast to the full blockade of morphine antinociception by naloxone, the antinociceptive action of tramadol in most tests is only partially blocked by naloxone. Furthermore, although the antinociception of morphine is unaffected by the α_2 -adrenergic antagonist yohimbine or the serotonergic antagonist ritanserin, each of these antagonists reduces tramadol's antinociception. These pharmacologic studies suggest the contribution of both opioid and

monoamine mechanisms to tramadol antinociception.

In drug interaction studies carried out with tramadol, a substantial increase in toxicity was found after pretreatment with an MAO inhibitor, tranylcypromine. The antinociceptive effect of the compound was reduced by concomitant administration of barbiturates and atropine, and was virtually eliminated by tranylcypromine. Physostigmine potentiated the antinociceptive effect of a sub-maximal dose of tramadol. Other potential drug interactions based on enzyme induction or displacement from protein binding were thought to be unlikely with tramadol as no inductive effect on liver enzymes has been found for this agent and the protein binding is too low to induce relevant interference with the binding of other compounds.

Pharmacokinetics

Tramadol was rapidly absorbed after oral administration in the mouse, rat, and dog. In dogs, the mean absolute bioavailability of a single 20 mg/kg oral dose of tramadol (Avicel formulation in gelatin capsules) was 81.8%, with maximum plasma concentrations achieved in about one hour. Distribution of radioactivity into tissues was rapid following the intravenous administration of ¹⁴C-labelled tramadol to rats, with the highest concentration of radioactivity found in the liver. Radioactivity levels in the brain were comparable to plasma levels for the first 2 hours post-injection, demonstrating that the drug crosses the blood brain barrier. Concentrations in the kidneys, lungs, spleen, and pancreas were also higher than the serum concentration.

The major metabolic pathway was qualitatively similar for all species studied, including mouse, rat, hamster, guinea pig, rabbit, and man, and involved both Phase I (*N*- and *O*-demethylation and 4-hydroxylation; eight metabolites) and Phase II (glucuronidation or sulfation; thirteen metabolites) reactions. The primary metabolite mono-*O*-desmethyltramadol (M1) has antinociceptive activity. In biochemical studies, (±) mono-*O*-desmethyltramadol and its enantiomers each had greater affinity for opioid receptors and were less potent inhibitors of monoamine uptake than were the corresponding parent compounds.

Excretion was primarily by the renal route in the animal species studied. After oral administration, fecal excretion was approximately 13% in rats and dogs, and 80% of ¹⁴C-labelled tramadol doses were excreted in the urine within 72 to 216 hours of dosing. Amounts of unchanged tramadol excreted in the urine were higher in man (approximately 30% of the dose) than in animals (approximately 1%).

Tramadol is a mild inducer of ethoxycoumarin deethylase activity in the mouse and dog.

TOXICOLOGY

Acute Toxicity

The acute toxicity of tramadol hydrochloride has been examined in the rat. The results of the study are summarized in the following table.

Table 2.1: Acute Toxicity Studies Summary

Species/Strain Age/B.W.	No./Sex/ Group Duration	Route	Vehicle	Dosage Levels (mg/kg)	Lethality	Results
Rat Crl:COBS [®] (WI) BR Age: 7 to 8 wk B.W. Range: 161 to 220 g	5M or 8M single dose	p.o. (gavage)	1% aqueous HPMC	Tramadol: 150 APAP: 300 Tramadol/APAP: 150/300 Vehicle Control: 1% aqueous HPMC (9 mL/kg)	No mortality	No treatment-related mortality, clinical observations, or effects on body weight.
APAP = acetaminophen; B.W. = body weight; HPMC = hydroxypropylmethylcellulose; M = male; F = female; mo = month; p.o. = oral; wk = week; η = increased; ι = decreased						

Long-Term Toxicity

Multi-dose toxicity studies were conducted in rats and dogs. The following table summarizes the results of the two pivotal multi-dose studies.

Table 2.2: Multi-dose Toxicity Studies-Protocol Summaries/Results

Species/Strain Age/B.W.	No./Group/ Duration/Route	Dosage (mg/kg/day)	Evaluated Parameters	Results
Rat Crl:CD [®] BR, VAF/Plus [®]	10 3 mo p.o. (gavage)	1) Vehicle Control: 0.5% Methocel (10 mL/kg/day)	Mortality, clinical observations, B.W., food consumption, ophthalmological examination, drug metabolism, hematology, coagulation, clinical chemistry, urinalysis, organ weights, gross pathology, histopathology	<u>Vehicle Control</u> : Four M deaths (attributed to dosing errors); alopecia in both sexes
		2) Tramadol/APAP: 7.5/65 22.5/195 45/390		<u>7.5/65</u> : Alopecia in both sexes; ↑ liver weights in males <u>22.5/195</u> : One M death (cause of death not determined); alopecia in both sexes; ↑ liver weights in males; slightly ↑ urine volume in females <u>45/390</u> : Alopecia, ↑ salivation, slightly higher urine volume in both sexes; mild treatment related increases in K ⁺ concentration, slightly ↓ RBC, ↑ MCV, MCH, ↑ liver weights, slightly ↓ ALT and AST activity and ↑ ALP in females
		3) Tramadol: 45		<u>45</u> : Alopecia, ↑ salivation, in both sexes; slightly ↓ ALT and AST activity and ↑ ALP in females.
		4) APAP: 390		<u>390</u> : ↑ salivation, slightly higher urine volume in both sexes; ↑ liver weights in males; slightly ↓ RBC, ↑ MCV, MCH in males; alopecia, mild treatment related increases in K ⁺ concentration, slightly ↓ ALT and AST activity and ↑ ALP in females. Additional findings: (1) higher kidney weights in males dosed with APAP or tramadol/APAP; (2) lower adrenal gland weights in males dosed with tramadol and/or APAP.

ALP = alkaline phosphatase; ALT = alanine aminotransferase; APAP = acetaminophen; AST = aspartate aminotransferase; K = potassium; MCH = mean corpuscular hemoglobin; MCV = mean corpuscular volume; mo = month; p.o. = oral; RBC = red blood cell; wk = week; ↑ = increased; ↓ = decreased

Table 2.2: Multi-dose Toxicity Studies - Protocol Summaries/Results (continued)

Species/Strain Age/B.W.	No./Group/ Duration/Route	Dosage (mg/kg/day)	Evaluated Parameters	Results
Dog Beagle	4 3 mo p.o. (gavage) daily dose divided between two dosing sessions approx. 5.5 h apart	1) Vehicle Control: 0.5% Methocel (1 mL/kg/b.i.d.) 2) Tramadol/APAP: 7.5/65 22.5/195 3) Tramadol: 22.5 4) APAP: 195	Mortality, clinical observations, B.W., estimated food consumption, electrocardiographic/ ophthalmological/ physical examination, drug absorption, hematology. Coagulation, clinical chemistry, urinalysis, gross pathology, microscopic histopathology, organ weights.	<u>7.5/65</u> : NOAEL <u>22.5/195</u> : One male dog was sacrificed moribund on Day 32. ↓ activity, discoloured/food emesis, decreased/absent feces, discoloured urine, urine stained coat, jaundice, occult blood in urine, ↓ B.W. early in study related to ↓ food consumption, slightly to moderately ↓ RBC, Hb, and Hct counts, ↑ MCV, reticulocyte and platelet counts, slightly to moderately ↑ ALT, ALP, GGT, and urine bilirubin values, changes in liver, kidney, bone marrow, spleen, (males) and thymus (males) in both sexes; fine tremor, edema in males; hunched posture, emaciation, ataxia, pallor, ↑ total bilirubin, in females <u>22.5</u> : ↓ B.W. early in study related to ↓ food consumption in both sexes. <u>195</u> : ↓ B.W. early in study related to ↓ food consumption, slightly to moderately ↓ RBC, Hb, and Hct counts, ↑ MCV, reticulocyte and platelet counts, ↑ urine bilirubin, changes in liver, kidney, bone marrow, spleen (males), and thymus (males) in both sexes; slightly ↑ ALP, GGT, and total bilirubin values in females

^a Continuation of 4 week dog study results

ALP = alkaline phosphatase; ALT = alanine aminotransferase; APAP = acetaminophen; AST = aspartate aminotransferase; K = potassium; MCH = mean corpuscular hemoglobin; MCV = mean corpuscular volume; mo = month; p.o. = oral; RBC = red blood cell; wk = week; ↑ = increased; ↓ = decreased; Hb = Hemoglobin; Hct = Hematocrit; GGT = γ -glutamyl transferase

Carcinogenicity

A slight, but statistically significant, increase in two common murine tumors, pulmonary and hepatic, was observed in a mouse carcinogenicity study, particularly in aged mice. Mice were dosed orally up to 30 mg/kg (90 mg/m² or 0.36 times the maximum daily human dosage of 246 mg/m²) for approximately two years, although the study was not done with the Maximum Tolerated Dose. This finding is not believed to suggest risk in humans. No such finding occurred in a rat carcinogenicity study (dosing orally up to 30 mg/kg, 180 mg/m², or 0.73 times the maximum daily human dosage).

Mutagenicity

Tramadol was not mutagenic in the following assays: Ames Salmonella microsomal activation test, CHO/HPRT mammalian cell assay, mouse lymphoma assay (in the absence of metabolic activation), dominant lethal mutation tests in mice, chromosome aberration test in Chinese hamsters, and bone marrow micronucleus tests in mice and Chinese hamsters. Weakly mutagenic results occurred in the presence of metabolic activation in the mouse lymphoma assay and micronucleus test in rats. Overall, the weight of evidence from these tests indicates that tramadol does not pose a genotoxic risk to humans.

Teratogenicity:

No effects on fertility were observed for tramadol at oral dose levels up to 50 mg/kg (300 mg/m²) in male rats and 75 mg/kg (450 mg/m²) in female rats. These dosages are 1.2 and 1.8 times the maximum daily human dosage of 246 mg/m², respectively.

Tramadol has been shown to be embryotoxic and fetotoxic in mice, (120 mg/kg or 360 mg/m²), rats (≥ 25 mg/kg or 150 mg/m²) and rabbits (≥ 75 mg/kg or 900 mg/m²) at maternally toxic dosages, but was not teratogenic at these dose levels. These dosages on a mg/m² basis are 1.4, ≥ 0.6 , and ≥ 3.6 times the maximum daily human dosage (246 mg/m²) for mouse, rat and rabbit, respectively.

No drug-related teratogenic effects were observed in progeny of mice (up to 140 mg/kg or 420 mg/m²), rats (up to 80 mg/kg or 480 mg/m²) or rabbits (up to 300 mg/kg or 3600 mg/m²) treated with tramadol by various routes. Embryo and fetal toxicity consisted primarily of decreased fetal weights, skeletal ossification and increased supernumerary ribs at maternally toxic dose levels. Transient delays in developmental or behavioral parameters were also seen in pups from rat dams allowed to deliver. Embryo and fetal lethality were reported only in one rabbit study at 300 mg/kg (3600 mg/m²), a dose that would cause extreme maternal toxicity in the rabbit. The dosages listed for mouse, rat and rabbit are 1.7, 1.9 and 14.6 times the maximum daily human dosage (246 mg/m²), respectively.

Tramadol was evaluated in peri- and post-natal studies in rats. Progeny of dams receiving oral (gavage) dose levels of 50 mg/kg (300 mg/m² or 1.2 times the maximum daily human tramadol dosage) or greater had decreased weights, and pup survival was decreased early in lactation at 80 mg/kg (480 mg/m² or 1.9 and higher the maximum daily human dose).

Table 2.3: Reproductive Study – Summary

Species/Strain (No./Group)	Route/ Duration	Dosage (mg/kg/day)	Observations	Results
Rat CrI:CD [®] BR, VAF/Plus [®] 28/group	p.o. (gavage) Gestation Days 6 through 17	1) Vehicle Control: 0.5% Methocel (10 mL/kg/day) 2) Tramadol/APAP: 10/87 25/217 50/434 3) Tramadol: 50	Maternal B.W.; food consumption, clinical signs, and post-mortem exam; number of corpora lutea, implantations, fetuses, resorptions, and pre- and postimplantation loss; fetal weight; fetal alterations	<u>10/87</u> : ↓ B.W. gain during treatment; ↑ B.W. gain during postdose period; ↓ food consumption during treatment <u>25/217</u> : ↑ alopecia during and after treatment; B.W. loss at treatment initiation; ↓ B.W. gain during treatment; ↑ B.W. gain during postdose period; ↓ food consumption during treatment <u>50/434</u> : ↑ alopecia during and after treatment; B.W. loss at treatment initiation; ↓ B.W. gain during treatment; ↑ B.W. gain during postdose period; ↓ food consumption during treatment; ↓ fetal B.W.; ↑ supernumerary ribs (attributed to maternal stress, not drug treatment) <u>50</u> : ↑ alopecia during and after treatment; B.W. loss at treatment initiation; ↓ B.W. gain during treatment; ↑ B.W. gain during postdose period; ↓ food consumption during treatment; ↓ fetal B.W.

Embryo/fetal NOAEL for tramadol/APAP combination: 25/217 mg/kg/day

APAP = acetaminophen; B.W. = body weight; NOAEL = no-observed-adverse-effect level; p.o. = oral; ↑ = increased; ↓ = decreased

Dependence Liability

The physical dependence liability potential associated with the chronic use of tramadol has been evaluated in a number of animal studies, including investigations in the mouse, rat, and monkey. A slight degree of antinociceptive tolerance to tramadol evolved in the mouse studies, but there was little or no indication of the development of physical dependence. No evidence of dependence was observed in the rat study. However, in dogs addicted to morphine, withdrawal symptoms were relieved by tramadol. In primate studies, which evaluated the physical dependence and reinforcement properties of tramadol, the physical dependence of the drug was deemed to be low.

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Product Monograph - ULTRAM[®] (tramadol hydrochloride) tablets. Janssen Inc. Date of revision: April 5, 2018, control number 210670.

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

PrTRAMADOL

Tramadol Hydrochloride Tablets USP

Read this carefully before you start taking TRAMADOL and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about TRAMADOL.

Serious Warnings and Precautions

- **Even if you take TRAMADOL as prescribed you are at a risk for opioid addiction, abuse and misuse. This can lead to overdose and death.**
- **Do not crush, chew or dissolve the tablet. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.**
- **You may get life-threatening breathing problems while taking TRAMADOL. This is less likely to happen if you take it as prescribed by your doctor. Babies are at risk of life-threatening breathing problems if their mothers take opioids while pregnant or nursing.**
- **You should never give anyone your TRAMADOL. They could die from taking it. If a person has not been prescribed TRAMADOL, taking even one dose can cause a fatal overdose. This is especially true for children.**
- **If you took TRAMADOL while you were pregnant, whether for short or long periods of time or in small or large doses, your baby can suffer life-threatening withdrawal symptoms after birth. This can occur in the days after birth and for up to 4 weeks after delivery. If your baby has any of the following symptoms:**
 - has changes in their breathing (such as weak, difficult or fast breathing)
 - is unusually difficult to comfort
 - has tremors (shakiness)
 - has increased stools, sneezing, yawning, vomiting, or fever**Seek immediate medical help for your baby.**
- **Taking TRAMADOL with other opioid medicines, benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other central nervous system depressants (including street drugs) can cause severe drowsiness, decreased awareness, breathing problems, coma, and death.**

What is TRAMADOL used for?

TRAMADOL (tramadol hydrochloride) is used to manage your pain.

How does TRAMADOL work?

Tramadol hydrochloride, is a painkiller belonging to the class of drugs known as opioids. It relieves pain by acting on specific nerve cells of the spinal cord and brain.

What are the ingredients in TRAMADOL?

Medicinal ingredient: tramadol hydrochloride

Non-medicinal ingredients (in alphabetical order): hydroxyethyl cellulose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol and titanium dioxide.

TRAMADOL comes in the following dosage forms:

50 mg tablets

Do not use TRAMADOL if:

- you are allergic to tramadol or any of the other ingredients in **TRAMADOL** (see **What are the ingredients in TRAMADOL?**)
- you can control your pain by the occasional use of other pain medications. This includes those available without a prescription
- you have severe asthma, trouble breathing, or other breathing problems
- you have bowel blockage or narrowing of the stomach or intestines
- you have severe pain in your abdomen
- you have a head injury
- you suffer from severe reduction in functions controlled by the brain such as breathing, heart rate and consciousness, or if you have increased pressure in your head or spinal cord
- you are at risk for seizures
- you have severe kidney disease
- you have severe liver disease
- you suffer from alcoholism
- you are taking or have taken within the past 2 weeks a Monoamine Oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) (such as phenelzine sulfate, tranylcypromine sulfate, moclobemide or selegiline)
- you are less than 18 years old and are having (or have recently had) your tonsils or adenoids removed because of frequent interruption of breathing during sleep
- you are less than 12 years old
- you have slow or shallow breathing, elevated carbon dioxide levels in the blood or a condition called “cor pulmonale” in which part of the heart is enlarged or does not work correctly due to high blood pressure in the lungs

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take TRAMADOL. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have a history of illicit or prescription drug or alcohol abuse
- have low blood pressure
- have or had depression
- suffer from chronic or severe constipation
- have been told that you metabolize tramadol or other pain medications rapidly
- have problems with your thyroid, adrenal or prostate gland
- have, or had in the past hallucinations or other severe mental problems
- are at risk of low sodium levels in your blood
- have liver or kidney problems
- have diabetes
- are over 65 years of age
- have abdominal problems
- suffer from migraines
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are nursing

Other warnings you should know about:

TRAMADOL can decrease your blood sugar levels. Diabetic patients may need to monitor their blood sugar more often. If you notice changes, discuss this with your doctor.

If you are planning surgery, or about to undergo surgery, tell your doctor that you are taking TRAMADOL.

Opioid dependence and addiction: There are important differences between physical dependence and addiction. It is important that you talk to your doctor if you have questions or concerns about abuse, addiction or physical dependence.

Pregnancy, nursing, labour and delivery: Opioids can be transferred to your baby through breast milk, or while still in the womb. TRAMADOL can then cause life-threatening breathing problems in your unborn baby or nursing infant. Your doctor will determine if the benefits of using TRAMADOL outweigh the risks to your unborn baby or nursing infant. TRAMADOL

If you are pregnant and are taking TRAMADOL, it is important that you don't stop taking your medication all of a sudden. Your doctor will monitor and guide you on how to slowly stop taking TRAMADOL. This may help avoid serious harm to your unborn baby.

Adolescents (12 to 18 years old): You should not use TRAMADOL if your child:

- is overweight (obese)
- has obstructive sleep apnea (a condition where your breathing starts and stops while you sleep)
- has severe lung disease

There is a higher risk of serious breathing problems if your child takes TRAMADOL and has any of the above conditions.

Driving and using machines: Before you do tasks which may require special attention, you should wait until you know how you react to TRAMADOL. TRAMADOL can cause:

- drowsiness
- dizziness or
- Light-headedness

This can usually occur after you take your first dose and when your dose is increased.

Disorder of the adrenal gland: You may develop a disorder of the adrenal gland called adrenal insufficiency. This means that your adrenal gland is not making enough of certain hormones. You may experience symptoms such as:

- nausea, vomiting
- feeling tired, weak or dizzy
- decreased appetite

You may be more likely to have problems with your adrenal gland if you have been taking opioids for longer than one month. Your doctor may do tests, give you another medication, and slowly take you off TRAMADOL.

Serotonin Syndrome: TRAMADOL can cause Serotonin Syndrome, a rare but potentially life-threatening condition. It can cause serious changes in how your brain, muscles and digestive system work. You may develop Serotonin Syndrome if you take TRAMADOL with certain anti-depressants or migraine medications.

Serotonin Syndrome symptoms include:

- fever, sweating, shivering, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting;
- muscle shakes, jerks, twitches or stiffness, overactive reflexes, loss of coordination;
- fast heartbeat, changes in blood pressure;
- confusion, agitation, restlessness, hallucinations, mood changes, unconsciousness, and coma.

Sexual Function/Reproduction: Long term use of opioids may lead to a decrease in sex hormone levels. It may also lead to low libido (desire to have sex), erectile dysfunction or being infertile.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with TRAMADOL:

- Alcohol. This includes prescription and non-prescription medications that contain alcohol. **Do not** drink alcohol while you are taking TRAMADOL. It can lead to:
 - o drowsiness
 - o unusually slow or weak breathing
 - o serious side effects or
 - o a fatal overdose
- other opioid analgesics (drugs used to treat pain)
- general anesthetics (drugs used during surgery)
- benzodiazepines (drugs used to help you sleep or that help reduce anxiety)
- antidepressants (for depression and mood disorders) such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) (e.g., venlafaxine and duloxetine), certain tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., imipramine and amitriptyline) or other tricyclic compounds (e.g., cyclobenzaprine, promethazine) or lithium and St. John's Wort. **Do not** take TRAMADOL with MAO inhibitors (MAOi) or if you have taken MAOi's in the last 14 days
- drugs used to treat serious mental or emotional disorders (such as schizophrenia)
- antihistamines (drugs used to treat allergies)
- anti-emetics (drugs used for the prevention of vomiting)
- drugs used to treat muscle spasms and back pain
- warfarin (such as coumadin) and other anticoagulants (used for prevention or treatment of blood clots)
- anti-retroviral drugs (used to treat viral infections)
- anti-fungal drugs (used to treat fungal infections)
- antibiotic drugs (used to treat bacterial infections)
- some heart medication (such as beta blockers)
- drugs used to treat migraines (e.g., triptans)
- drugs containing tryptophan
- carbamazepine, used to treat epilepsy and some types of pain
- quinidine, used to treat heart conditions (antiarrhythmics)
- grapefruit juice

Medicines that may increase the risk of hyponatremia (low sodium in the blood) such as antidepressants, benzodiazepines, diuretics.

How to take TRAMADOL:

Do not crush, chew or dissolve the tablet. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.

Do not take TRAMADOL tablets with other tramadol-containing products.
You may take TRAMADOL tablets with or without food.

Usual Adult Starting Dose:

Your dose is tailored/personalized just for you. Be sure to follow your doctor's dosing instructions exactly. Do not increase or decrease your dose without consulting your doctor.

Review your pain regularly with your doctor to determine if you still need TRAMADOL. Be sure to use TRAMADOL only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

If your pain increases or you develop any side effect as a result of taking TRAMADOL, tell your doctor immediately.

When you first begin taking TRAMADOL, your doctor may ask you to start slowly and gradually increase the number of tablets you take. **However, you should not take more than 8 tablets per day.** Exceeding these recommendations can

result in respiratory depression (shallow, slow breathing), seizures, liver damage, coma, heart stoppage and death. Taking a significant overdose can result in hepatic toxicity.

Stopping your Medication

If you have been taking TRAMADOL for more than a few days you should not stop taking it all of a sudden. You should check with your doctor for directions on how to slowly stop taking it. You should do it slowly to avoid uncomfortable symptoms such as having:

- body aches
- diarrhea
- gooseflesh
- loss of appetite
- nausea
- feeling nervous or restless
- runny nose
- sneezing
- tremors or shivering
- stomach cramps
- rapid heart rate (tachycardia)
- having trouble sleeping
- an unusual increase in sweating
- an unexplained fever
- weakness
- yawning

By reducing or stopping your opioid treatment, your body will become less used to opioids. If you start treatment again, you will need to start at the lowest dose. You may overdose if you restart at the last dose you took before you slowly stopped taking TRAMADOL.

Refilling your Prescription for TRAMADOL:

A new written prescription is required from your doctor each time you need more TRAMADOL. Therefore, it is important that you contact your doctor before your current supply runs out.

Only obtain prescriptions for this medicine from the doctor in charge of your treatment. Do not seek prescriptions from other doctors unless you switch to another doctor for your pain management.

Overdose:

If you think you have taken too much TRAMADOL, contact your healthcare professional, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.
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Signs of overdose may include:

- unusually slow or weak breathing
- dizziness
- confusion
- extreme drowsiness
- fits (seizures)
- irritation and discomfort in the stomach and gut
- loss of appetite
- nausea
- vomiting
- feeling unwell

- unusually pale colour and sweating

Cases of abnormal electrical conduction of the heart (QT prolongation) have been reported.

Missed Dose:

If you miss one dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, then skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses at once. If you miss several doses in succession, talk to your doctor before restarting your medication.

What are possible side effects from using TRAMADOL?

These are not all the possible side effects you may feel when taking TRAMADOL. If you experience any side effects not listed here, contact your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- Drowsiness
- Insomnia
- Dizziness
- Fainting
- Nausea, vomiting, or a poor appetite
- Dry mouth
- Headache
- Problems with vision
- Weakness, uncoordinated muscle movement
- Itching
- Sweating
- Constipation
- Low sex drive, impotence (erectile dysfunction), infertility

Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about ways to prevent constipation when you start using TRAMADOL.

TRAMADOL can cause abnormal blood test results including decreased blood sugar. Your doctor will decide when to perform blood tests and will interpret the results.

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
RARE			
Overdose: hallucinations, confusion, inability to walk normally, slow or weak breathing, extreme sleepiness, sedation, or dizziness, floppy muscles/low muscle tone cold and clammy skin			✓
Respiratory Depression: slow, shallow or weak breathing			✓
Allergic Reaction: rash, hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, difficulty swallowing or breathing			✓
Bowel Blockage (impaction): abdominal pain, severe constipation, nausea			✓
Withdrawal: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anxiety, shivering, cold and clammy skin, body aches, loss of appetite, sweating		✓	

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Fast, Slow or Irregular Heartbeat: heart palpitations.		✓	
Low Blood Pressure: dizziness, fainting, light-headedness	✓		
Serotonin Syndrome: agitation or restlessness, loss of muscle control or muscle twitching, tremor, diarrhea			✓
VERY RARE			
Hyponatremia (low sodium in the blood): lethargy, confusion, muscular twitching, seizure and coma			✓
Decreased Blood Sugar (hypoglycaemia): dizziness, lack of energy, drowsiness, headache, trembling, sweating			✓

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, talk to your healthcare professional.

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

TRAMADOL tablets should be stored at room temperature 15°C to 30°C in a tightly closed container. Do not use TRAMADOL tablets after the expiry date. All expired medications should be returned to your pharmacist. Keep this and all medicines in a safe place away from children.

Disposal:

TRAMADOL should never be thrown into household trash, where children and pets may find it. It should be returned to a pharmacy for proper disposal.

Do not use TRAMADOL tablets after the expiry date. All expired medications should be returned to your pharmacist.

If you want more information about TRAMADOL:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this patient medication information by visiting the Health Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the manufacturer's website <https://www.aapharma.ca/en/>, or by calling 1-800-667-4708.

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