

Micromedex Consumer Medication Information.

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Tramadol (By mouth)

TRAM-a-dol

Treats moderate-to-severe pain in adults who require around-the-clock treatment for an extended period of time.

Drug classes

Analgesic ([About this - PubMed Health](#))

Uses

Uses of This Medicine

[Tramadol](#) is used to relieve moderate to moderately severe pain, including pain after surgery. The *extended-release or long-acting tablets* are used for chronic ongoing pain.

[Tramadol](#) belongs to the group of medicines called opioid analgesics. It acts in the central nervous system (CNS) to relieve pain. When tramadol is used for a long time, it may become habit-forming (causing mental or physical dependence). Physical dependence may lead to side effects when you stop taking the medicine.

This medicine is available only with your doctor's prescription.

[Other uses](#) (PubMed Health)

How To Use

Liquid, Capsule, Tablet, Dissolving Tablet, Long Acting Tablet

Take your medicine as directed. Your dose may need to be changed several times to find what works best for you.

This medicine is not for long-term use.

Use only the brand of medicine your doctor prescribed. Other brands may not work the same way.

Make sure your hands are dry before you handle the disintegrating tablet. Peel back the foil from the blister pack, then remove the tablet. Do not push the tablet through the foil. Place the tablet in your mouth. After it has melted, swallow or take a drink of water.

Swallow the extended-release tablet whole. Do not crush, break, or chew it.

You may take this medicine with or without food.

Drink plenty of liquids to help avoid constipation.

If a dose is missed:

Take a dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then and take a regular dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:

Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.

Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or health caregiver about the best way to dispose of any outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.

Keep all medicine out of the reach of children. Never share your medicine with anyone.

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Learn more about the effects of these drugs. The most reliable research is summed up for you in our featured article.

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Drugs and Foods to Avoid

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.

Make sure your doctor knows if you are using [cyclobenzaprine](#) (Flexeril®), an MAO inhibitor (such as [Eldepryl](#)®, [Marplan](#)®, [Nardil](#)®, or [Parnate](#)®), medicine for depression (such as [amitriptyline](#), [doxepin](#), [fluoxetine](#), [imipramine](#), [nortriptyline](#), [paroxetine](#), [Celexa](#)®, [Effexor](#)®, [Luvox](#)®, [Paxil](#)®, [Prozac](#)®, [Serzone](#)®, or [Zoloft](#)®), medicine for mental illness (such as [clozapine](#), [olanzapine](#), [risperidone](#), [Clozaril](#)®, [Risperdal](#)®, or [Zyprexa](#)®), medicine for migraine headaches (such as [sumatriptan](#), [zolmitriptan](#), [Imitrex](#)®, [Maxalt](#)®, or [Zomig](#)®), or medicine for seizures (such as [carbamazepine](#), [Tegretol](#)®).

Tell your doctor if you are also using St. John's wort, [digoxin](#) (Lanoxin®), [erythromycin](#) (Ery-tab®), [ketocoazole](#) (Nizoral®), [linezolid](#) (Zyvox®), [lithium](#) (Eskalith®), [quinidine](#) (Quinaglute®), [rifampin](#) (Rifadin®, Rimactane®), a phenothiazine medicine (such as [prochlorperazine](#), [promethazine](#), [Compazine](#)®, [Mellaril](#)®, [Phenergan](#)®, [Thorazine](#)®, or [Trilafon](#)®), or a blood thinner (such as [warfarin](#), [Coumadin](#)®).

Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol or if you are using any medicine that makes you sleepy, such as allergy medicine or narcotic pain medicine.

Do not drink alcohol while you are using this medicine.

When Not To Use

You should not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to [tramadol](#) or other narcotic pain medicines such as [codeine](#), [MS Contin](#)®, [OxyContin](#)®, [Percocet](#)®, or [Vicodin](#)®. In some situations, you should not use this medicine if you are also using alcohol, street drugs, sedatives, medicines for depression or mental illness, or other pain medicines. If you are using any of these, ask your doctor if you can still use tramadol. You should not use Ryzolt™ extended-release tablets if you have severe breathing or lung problems such as severe asthma or hypercapnia and you are not being monitored.

Warnings

Make sure your doctor knows if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

Make sure your doctor knows if you have kidney disease, liver disease (including cirrhosis), breathing problems, any infections (such as a central nervous system infection), depression, mental illness, stomach ulcers, or other stomach problems. Tell your doctor if you have a history of head injury or seizures (epilepsy), or if you have been addicted to drugs or alcohol.

Tell your doctor if you have phenylketonuria (PKU) or a history of a phenylketone allergy because **Rybix™ orally disintegrating tablets** contain aspartame.

This medicine can increase thoughts of suicide. Tell your doctor right away if you start to feel more depressed or have thoughts about hurting yourself. Report any unusual thoughts or behaviors that trouble you, especially if they are new or get worse quickly. Make sure your caregiver knows if you have trouble sleeping, get upset easily, have a big increase in energy, or start to act reckless. Tell your doctor if you have any sudden or strong feelings, such as feeling nervous, angry, restless, violent, or scared. Let your doctor know if you or anyone in your family has bipolar disorder (manic-depressive disorder) or has tried to commit suicide.

Make sure your doctor knows about all the other medicines you are using. This medicine may increase your risk for seizures (convulsions) and may cause a serious condition called serotonin syndrome when it is taken with certain medicines.

This medicine may cause serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis can be life-threatening and requires immediate medical attention. Call your doctor right away if you have a rash; itching; hoarseness; trouble breathing; trouble swallowing; swelling of your hands, face, or mouth; or chest pain while you are using this medicine.

This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving, using machines, or doing anything else that could be dangerous if you are not alert.

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If you think you or someone else may have taken an overdose of this medicine, get emergency help at once. Signs of an overdose include convulsions (seizures); difficult or troubled breathing; irregular, fast or slow, or shallow breathing; pale or blue lips, fingernails, or skin; pinpoint pupils of the eyes, or shortness of breath.

This medicine can be habit-forming. Do not use more than your prescribed dose. Call your doctor if you think your medicine is not working.

Do not stop using this medicine suddenly. Your doctor will need to slowly decrease your dose before you stop it completely.

Make sure any doctor or dentist who treats you knows that you are using this medicine.

This medicine may cause constipation, especially with long-term use. Ask your doctor if you should use a laxative to prevent and treat constipation.

Possible side effects

Summary

[More details](#)

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:

Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing

Blistering, peeling, or red skin rash.

Lightheadedness, dizziness, or fainting.

Seizures.

Severe sleepiness or unusual drowsiness.

Shortness of breath or troubled breathing.

If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:

Dry mouth.

Feeling nervous, anxious, shaky, or unusually happy.

Feeling of constant movement of self or surroundings.

Headache.

Increased sweating, mild itching.

Loss of appetite.

Muscle stiffness.

Nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, or upset stomach.

Tiredness or weakness.

Trouble sleeping.

Warmth or redness in your face, neck, arms, or upper chest.

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

[More side effects of this drug](#)

Brand names include

ConZip, FusePaq Synapryn, Rybix ODT, Ryzolt, Theratramadol-60, Theratramadol-90, Ultram, Ultram ER

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

[More detailed version of this drug page](#)

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