

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules.

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules

Initial U.S. Approval: 1995

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is an opioid agonist indicated for the management of moderate to moderately severe chronic pain in adults who require around-the-clock treatment of their pain for an extended period of time (1)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules must be swallowed whole, and must not be split, chewed, dissolved or crushed (2.1).
- Do not exceed a daily dose of 300 mg tramadol. Do not use with other tramadol products. (2.1)
- Adults not on tramadol Immediate-Release (IR): Initiate tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules at a dose of 100 mg once daily, then titrate up by 100 mg increments every 5 days according to need and tolerance. (2.1)
- Adults on tramadol IR: Calculate total 24-hr IR dose, initiate tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules at a dose rounded down to next lower 100 mg increment; then adjust dose according to need and tolerance. (2.1)
- Patients >65 years of age: Initiate dosing cautiously; use even greater caution in patients >75 years. (2.3)
- May be taken without regard to meals (12.3)

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Extended-Release Capsules: 100 mg, 200 mg and 300 mg (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Patients who have previously demonstrated hypersensitivity to tramadol, any other component of this product or opioids (4)
- Patients with significant respiratory depression in unmonitored settings or the absence of resuscitative equipment (4)
- Patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma or hypercapnia in unmonitored settings or the absence of resuscitative equipment (4)
- All other opioid contraindications, including intoxication with alcohol, hypnotics, narcotics, centrally acting analgesics, opioids or psychotropic drugs (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Seizures: Can occur within the recommended dose range. Concomitant use with certain other drugs may increase the seizure risk. Risk of convulsions may increase in patients with epilepsy, history of seizures, and with a recognized risk for seizure (5.1, 5.9).
- Suicide: Do not prescribe for suicidal or addiction-prone patients (5.2).
- Serotonin Syndrome: May be life-threatening. Can occur with tramadol alone or with concomitant use of other serotonergic drugs or those that inhibit metabolism of tramadol (5.3, 5.9).
- Anaphylactoid Reactions: Serious and rarely fatal anaphylactoid reactions have occurred. Increased risk in patients with history of anaphylactoid reactions to other opioids (5.4).
- Hypersensitivity reactions: Serious and rarely fatal anaphylactoid reactions have occurred, often after the first dose. Other reactions include pruritus, hives, bronchospasm, angioedema, TEN, SJS. (5.4)

- Respiratory Depression: Administer cautiously in patients at risk for respiratory depression (5.5)
- CNS Depression: Use with caution and in reduced dosages in patients taking CNS depressants and in patients at risk for CNS depression. Patients should not consume alcohol-containing beverages while using tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules (5.6, 5.12).
- Increased Intracranial Pressure or Head Trauma: Use with caution in patients with increased intracranial pressure or head injury (5.7).
- Ambulatory Patients: Tramadol may impair mental and/or physical abilities required for potentially hazardous tasks (5.8).
- Tapering may reduce withdrawal symptoms. (5.10).
- Misuse, Abuse, and Diversion: Tramadol can be abused in a manner similar to other opioid agonists, legal or illicit (5.11).
- Overdosage can cause CNS and respiratory depression and death. (5.13)
- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may complicate clinical assessment of acute abdominal conditions. (5.14)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Most common adverse reactions (incidence \geq 10% and twice placebo) are nausea, constipation, dry mouth, somnolence, dizziness, and vomiting (6).

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Sponsor at (000) 000-0000 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

- SSRI/SNRI antidepressants or anorectics, TCA antidepressants, other tricyclic compounds, other opioids, MAOIs, neuroleptics or other drugs that lower seizure threshold: Risk of seizures increased with concomitant use of tramadol (7.1).
- CYP2D6 and/or CYP3A4 Inhibitors: May result in increased tramadol concentrations (7.2).
- Serotonergic Drugs, Triptans, and CNS Depressants: Enhanced risk of adverse reactions (7.3, 7.4, and 7.5).
- Carbamazepine: Reduces analgesic effects of tramadol (7.6).
- Quinidine: May result in increased concentration of tramadol and reduced concentrations of its active metabolite, M1 (7.7).
- Digoxin and Warfarin: Rare reports of digoxin toxicity; altered warfarin effect and elevation of prothrombin time (7.8).

USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Pregnancy: Use only if benefit outweighs risk to the fetus. Neonatal seizures and withdrawal syndrome, fetal death and still birth have occurred. (8.1)
- Labor and Delivery: Tramadol crosses the placenta, and should not be used prior to or during labor unless the potential benefits outweigh the risks. Long term use during pregnancy can cause dependence and withdrawal symptoms in the newborn. (8.2)
- Nursing mothers: Effect on child not studied. tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used. (8.3)
- Pediatrics: Safety and effectiveness of tramadol has not been established in patients under 18 years. Use in this population is not recommended. (8.4)
- Elderly: Use with caution, in particular in patients older than 75 years. (8.5)
- Severe renal impairment: tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used. (8.6)
- Severe hepatic impairment: tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used. (8.7)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is indicated for the management of moderate to moderately severe chronic pain in adults who require around-the-clock treatment of their pain for an extended period of time.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 General Dosing Considerations

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is an extended-release formulation intended for once a day dosing in adults aged 18 years and older. The tablets must be swallowed whole with liquid and must not be split, chewed, dissolved or crushed. Chewing, crushing or splitting the tablet could result in the uncontrolled delivery of tramadol, in overdose and death tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules[see *WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS (5.11)*, *DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE (9)* and, *OVERDOSE (10.1)*].

Do not administer tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules at a dose exceeding 300 mg per day. Do not use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules more than once daily or concomitantly with other tramadol products [see *WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS,(5.12)*]

2.2 Patients Not Currently on Tramadol Immediate-Release Products

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Initiate treatment with tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules at a dose of 100 mg once daily and titrated up as necessary by 100 mg increments every five days to tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules achieve a balance between relief of pain and tolerability.

2.3 Patients Currently on Tramadol Immediate-Release Products

Calculate the 24-hour tramadol IR dose and initiate a total daily dose of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules rounded down to the next lowest 100 mg increment. The dose may subsequently be individualized according to patient need. Due to limitations in flexibility of dose selection with tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules, some patients maintained on tramadol IR products may not be able to convert to tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules.

2.4 Patients 65 Years of Age and Older

Initiate dosing of an elderly patient (over 65 years of age) should be initiated cautiously, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should be administered with even greater caution in patients over 75 years, due to the greater frequency of adverse events seen in this population.

2.5 Patients with Renal Impairment

The limited availability of dose strengths and once daily dosing of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules do not permit the dosing flexibility required for safe use in patients with severe renal impairment. Do not use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules in patients with creatinine clearance less than 30 mL/min [see [USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS \(8.6\)](#) and [CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY \(12.3\)](#)]

2.6 Patients with Hepatic Impairment

The limited availability of dose strengths and once daily dosing of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules do not permit the dosing flexibility required for safe use in patients with severe hepatic impairment. Do not use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C) [see [USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS \(8.7\)](#) and [CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY \(12.3\)](#)].

2.7 Discontinuation of Treatment

Withdrawal symptoms may occur if tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is discontinued abruptly. Clinical experience with tramadol suggests that withdrawal symptoms may be reduced by tapering tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules [see *WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS (5.10)* and *DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE (9.3)*].

2.8 Food Effects

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may be taken without regard to food [see *CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY (12.3)*].

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is available in 100 mg, 200 mg and 300 mg extended-release capsules.

100 mg Capsules: White Capsule imprinted with blue ink “G 252” on cap and “100” between lines on the body

200 mg Capsules: White capsule imprinted with violet ink “G 253” on cap and “200” between lines on the body

300 mg Capsules: White capsule imprinted with red ink “G 254” on cap and “300” between lines on the body

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is contraindicated in patients who have previously demonstrated hypersensitivity to tramadol, any other component of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules, or opioids. Reactions range from pruritis to fatal anaphylactoid reactions [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*].

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is contraindicated in patients with significant respiratory depression in unmonitored settings or the absence of resuscitative equipment.

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is contraindicated in patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma or hypercapnia in unmonitored settings or the absence of resuscitative equipment.

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 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 above the recommended range. Concomitant use of tramadol increases the seizure risk in patients taking: [see *DRUG INTERACTIONS (7.1, 7.2)*]

- Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) antidepressants or anorectics,
- Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), and other tricyclic compounds (e.g., cyclobenzaprine, promethazine, etc.),
- Other opioids,
- MAO inhibitors [see *WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS (5.9)* and *DRUG INTERACTIONS (7.1)*],
- Neuroleptics, or
- Other drugs that reduce the seizure threshold.

Risk of seizures 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 overdose, naloxone administration may increase the risk of seizure.

5.2 Suicide Risk

- Do not prescribe tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules for patients who are suicidal or addiction-prone. Consideration should be given to the use of non-narcotic analgesics in patients who are suicidal or depressed [see *DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE (9.2)*].
- Prescribe tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules with caution for patients with a history of misuse and/or are taking CNS-active drugs including tranquilizers or antidepressant drugs, or alcohol in excess, and patients who suffer from emotional disturbance or depression [see *Drug INTERACTIONS (7.4)*].
- Tell your patients not to exceed the recommended dose and to limit their intake of alcohol [see *DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION (2.1)* and *WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS (5.6)*].

5.3 Serotonin Syndrome Risk

The development of a potentially life-threatening serotonin syndrome may occur with use of tramadol products, including tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules, particularly with concomitant use of serotonergic drugs such as SSRIs, SNRIs, TCAs, MAOIs and triptans, with drugs which impair metabolism of serotonin (including MAOIs) and with drugs which impair metabolism of tramadol (CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 inhibitors). This may occur within the recommended dose. [see *CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY (12.3)*].

Serotonin syndrome may include mental-status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, hyperthermia), neuromuscular aberrations (e.g., hyperreflexia, incoordination) and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).

5.4 Anaphylactoid Reactions

Serious and rarely fatal anaphylactoid reactions have been reported in patients receiving therapy with tramadol. When these events do occur it is often following the first dose. Other reported allergic reactions include pruritis, 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 hydrochloride extended-release capsules [see *Contraindications (4)*].

5.5 Respiratory Depression

Administer tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules cautiously in patients at risk for respiratory depression. In these patients alternative non-opioid analgesics should be considered. If large doses of tramadol 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 *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*, *Overdosage (10)*].

5.6 Interaction With Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants, Including Alcohol and Drugs of Abuse

Tramadol may be expected to have additive effects when used in conjunction with alcohol, other opioids, or illicit drugs that cause central nervous system depression. Use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules with caution and in reduced dosages when administered to patients receiving CNS depressants such as alcohol, opioids, anesthetic agents, narcotics, phenothiazines, tranquilizers or sedative hypnotics. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules increases the risk of CNS and respiratory depression in these patients. Alcohol-containing beverages should not be consumed by patients using tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules [see *WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS (5.6)*, *DRUG INTERACTIONS (7.4)*, and *OVERDOSE (10)*].

5.7 Patients with Increased Intracranial Pressure or Head Trauma

Use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules with caution in patients with increased intracranial pressure or head injury. The respiratory depressant effects of opioids include carbon dioxide retention and secondary elevation of cerebrospinal fluid pressure, and may be markedly exaggerated in these patients. Additionally, pupillary changes (miosis) from tramadol may obscure the existence, extent, or course of intracranial pathology. Clinicians should also maintain a high index of suspicion for adverse drug reaction when evaluating altered mental status in these patients if they are receiving tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*].

5.8 Use in Ambulatory Patients

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may impair the mental and or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery. Caution patients initiating therapy with tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules or those whose dose has been increased to refrain from potentially hazardous activities until it is established that their mental and physical abilities are not significantly impaired.

5.9 Use With MAO Inhibitors and SSRIs

Use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules with great caution in patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors. Animal studies have shown increased deaths with combined administration. Concomitant use of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules with MAO inhibitors or SSRI's increases the risk of adverse reactions, including seizure and serotonin syndrome [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1, 5.3)*].

5.10 Withdrawal Symptoms

Withdrawal symptoms may occur if tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is discontinued abruptly. These symptoms may include: anxiety, sweating, insomnia, rigors, pain, nausea, tremors, diarrhea, upper respiratory symptoms, piloerection, and rarely hallucinations. Clinical experience with other formulations of tramadol suggests that withdrawal symptoms may be reduced by tapering tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules when discontinuing tramadol therapy.

5.11 Misuse, Abuse and Diversion of Opioids

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules contains tramadol, an opioid agonist of the morphine-type. Such drugs are sought by drug abusers and people with addiction disorders and are subject to criminal diversion.

Tramadol can be abused in a manner similar to other opioid agonists, legal or illicit. This should be considered when prescribing or dispensing tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules in situations where the physician or pharmacist is concerned about an increased risk of misuse, abuse, or diversion.

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules could be abused by crushing, chewing, snorting, or injecting the dissolved product. These practices will result in the uncontrolled delivery of the opioid and pose a significant risk to the abuser that could result in overdose and death [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.13), Drug Abuse and Dependence (9), and Overdosage (10)*].

Concerns about abuse, addiction, and diversion should not prevent the proper management of pain. The development of addiction to opioid analgesics in properly managed patients with pain has been reported to be rare. However, data are not available to establish the true incidence of addiction in chronic pain patients.

Healthcare professionals should contact their State Professional Licensing Board, or State Controlled Substances Authority for information on how to prevent and detect abuse or diversion of this product.

5.12 Risk of Overdosage

Serious potential consequences of overdosage with tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules 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 (10)*].

5.13 Acute Abdominal Conditions

The administration of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may complicate the clinical assessment of patients with acute abdominal conditions.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following serious or otherwise important adverse reactions are described in greater detail, in other sections:

- Seizure risk [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]
- Suicide risk [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*]
- Serotonin syndrome [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*]
- Anaphylactoid and allergic reactions [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*]
- Respiratory depression [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*]
- Withdrawal symptoms [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.10)*]

6.1 Clinical Studies Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Capsules were administered to a total of 1987 patients in clinical trials. These included four double-blind and one long-term, open-label study in patients with osteoarthritis of the hip and knee. A total of 812 patients were 65 years or older. Adverse reactions with doses from 100 mg to 300 mg in the four pooled, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled studies in patients with chronic non-malignant pain are presented in the following table (see Table 1).

Table 1: Incidence (%) of patients with adverse reaction rates \geq 5% from four double-blind, placebo controlled studies in patients with moderate to moderately severe chronic pain by dose (N=1917).

Preferred Term	Tramadol hydrochloride Extended Release Capsules			PLACEBO
	100 mg (N=429) n (%)	200 mg (N=434) n (%)	300 mg (N=1054) n (%)	(N=646) n (%)
Headache	99 (23.1)	96 (22.1)	200 (19.0)	128 (19.8)
Nausea	69 (16.1)	93 (21.4)	265 (25.1)	37 (5.7)
Somnolence	50 (11.7)	60 (13.8)	170 (16.1)	26 (4.0)
Dizziness	41 (9.6)	54 (12.4)	143 (13.6)	31 (4.8)
Constipation	40 (9.3)	59 (13.6)	225 (21.3)	27 (4.2)
Vomiting	28 (6.5)	45 (10.4)	98 (9.3)	12 (1.9)
Arthralgia	23 (5.4)	20 (4.6)	53 (5.0)	33 (5.1)
Dry Mouth	20 (4.7)	36 (8.3)	138 (13.1)	22 (3.4)
Sweating	18 (4.2)	23 (5.3)	71 (6.7)	4 (0.6)
Asthenia	15 (3.5)	26 (6.0)	91 (8.6)	17 (2.6)
Pruritus	13 (3.0)	25 (5.8)	77 (7.3)	12 (1.9)
Anorexia	9 (2.1)	23 (5.3)	60 (5.7)	1 (0.2)
Insomnia	9 (2.1)	9 (2.1)	53 (5.0)	11 (1.7)

The following adverse reactions were reported from all chronic pain studies (N=1917). The lists below include adverse reactions not otherwise noted in Table 1.

Adverse reactions with incidence rates of 1.0% to <5.0%

Cardiac disorders: hypertension

Gastrointestinal disorders: dyspepsia, flatulence

General disorders: abdominal pain, accidental injury, chills, fever, flu syndrome, neck pain, pelvic pain

Investigations: hyperglycemia, urine abnormality

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: peripheral edema, weight loss

Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders: myalgia

Nervous system disorders: paresthesia, tremor, withdrawal syndrome

Psychiatric disorders: agitation, anxiety, apathy, confusion, depersonalization, depression, euphoria, nervousness

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: bronchitis, pharyngitis, rhinitis, sinusitis

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: rash

Urogenital disorders: prostatic disorder, urinary tract infection

Vascular disorders: vasodilatation

Adverse reactions with incidence rates of 0.5% to <1.0% at any dose and serious adverse reactions reported in at least two patients.

Cardiac disorders: EKG abnormal, hypotension, tachycardia

Gastrointestinal disorders: gastroenteritis

General disorders: neck rigidity, viral infection

Hematologic/Lymphatic disorders: anemia, ecchymoses

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: blood urea nitrogen increased, GGT increased, gout, SGPT increased

Musculoskeletal disorders: arthritis, arthrosis, joint disorder, leg cramps

Nervous system disorders: emotional lability, hyperkinesia, hypertonia, thinking abnormal, twitching, vertigo

Respiratory disorders: pneumonia

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: hair disorder, skin disorder, urticaria

Special Senses: eye disorder, lacrimation disorder

Urogenital disorders: cystitis, dysuria, sexual function abnormality, urinary retention

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

7.1 Drugs Affecting Seizure Threshold

Concomitant use of tramadol increases the seizure risk in patients taking SSRI/SNRI antidepressants or anorectics, TCA antidepressants and other tricyclic compounds, other opioids, MAOIs, neuroleptics or other drugs that lower the seizure threshold [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].

7.2 CYP2D6 and/or CYP3A4 inhibitors

Tramadol is metabolized by CYP2D6 to form the active metabolite, O-desmethyl tramadol (M1). *In vitro* drug interaction studies in human liver microsomes indicate that concomitant administration with inhibitors of CYP2D6 such as fluoxetine, paroxetine, and amitriptyline could result in some inhibition of the metabolism of tramadol.

Tramadol is also metabolized by CYP3A4 [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)]. Administration of CYP3A4 inhibitors, such as ketoconazole and erythromycin with tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may affect the metabolism of tramadol leading to altered tramadol exposure.

Concomitant administration of CYP2D6 and/or CYP3A4 inhibitors, such as quinidine, fluoxetine, paroxetine and amitriptyline (CYP2D6 inhibitors), and ketoconazole and erythromycin (CYP3A4 inhibitors), may reduce metabolic clearance of tramadol increasing the risk for serious adverse events including seizures and serotonin syndrome [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)].

7.3 Serotonergic Drugs

There have been post-marketing reports of serotonin syndrome with use of tramadol and SSRIs/SNRIs or MAOIs and α 2-adrenergic blockers. Caution is advised when tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is co-administered with other drugs that may affect the serotonergic neurotransmitter systems, such as SSRIs, MAOIs, triptans, linezolid (an antibiotic which is a reversible non-selective MAOI), lithium, or St. John's Wort. If concomitant treatment of tramadol hydrochloride

extended-release capsules 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 (5.3)*].

7.4 Triptans

Based on the mechanism of action of tramadol and the potential for serotonin syndrome, caution is advised when tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is co-administered with a triptan. If concomitant treatment of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules with a triptan is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised, particularly during treatment initiation and dose increases [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].

7.5 Interaction With Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should be used with caution and in reduced dosages when administered to patients receiving CNS depressants such as opioids, anesthetic agents, narcotics, phenothiazines, tranquilizers or sedative hypnotics. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules increases the risk of CNS and respiratory depression in these patients [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.6)*].

7.7 Quinidine

Quinidine is a strong inhibitor of CYP2D6. Coadministration of quinidine with an extended-release tramadol product resulted in a 50-60% increase in tramadol exposure and a 50-60% decrease in M1 exposure. The clinical consequences of these findings are unknown. [see *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*]. *In vitro* drug interaction studies in human liver microsomes indicate that tramadol has no effect on quinidine metabolism.

7.8 Digoxin and Warfarins

Post-marketing surveillance of tramadol has revealed rare reports of digoxin toxicity and alteration of warfarin effect, including elevation of prothrombin times.

7.9 CYP3A4 Inducers

Administration of CYP3A4 inducers, such as carbamazepine, rifampin and St. John's Wort, with tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may affect the metabolism of tramadol leading to reduced tramadol exposure [see [CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY \(12.3\)](#)].

Patients taking carbamazepine, a CYP3A4 inducer, may have a significantly reduced analgesic effect of tramadol. Because carbamazepine increases tramadol metabolism and because of the seizure risk associated with tramadol, concomitant administration of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules and carbamazepine is not recommended.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Teratogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category C

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Use tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Neonatal seizures, neonatal withdrawal syndrome, fetal death and still birth have been reported during post-marketing reports with tramadol HCl immediate-release products. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Tramadol was not teratogenic at oral dose levels up to 50 mg/kg/day (1.6-fold the maximum daily human dose (MDHD)) in rats and 100 mg/kg (approximately 6.5-fold MDHD) in rabbits during organogenesis. However, embryo-fetal lethality, reductions in fetal weight and skeletal ossification, and increased supernumerary ribs were observed at a maternal toxic dose of 140 mg/kg in mice (approximately 2.3-fold MDHD), 80 mg/kg in rats (2.6-fold MDHD) or 300 mg/kg in rabbits (approximately 19-fold MDHD).

Non-teratogenic Effects

Tramadol caused a reduction in neonatal body weight at a dose of 50 mg/kg (1.6-fold the MDHD) and reduced pup survival at an oral dose of 80 mg/kg (approximately 2.6-fold MDHD) when rats were treated during late gestation throughout lactation period.

8.2 Labor and Delivery

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used in pregnant women prior to or during labor unless the potential benefits outweigh the risks. Safe use in pregnancy has not been established. Chronic use during pregnancy may lead to physical dependence and post-partum withdrawal symptoms in the newborn [see *Drug Abuse and Dependence (9.1)*]. Tramadol has been shown to cross the placenta. The mean ratio of serum tramadol in the umbilical veins compared to maternal veins was 0.83 for 40 women given tramadol during labor.

The effect of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules, if any, on the later growth, development, and functional maturation of the child is unknown.

8.3 Nursing Mothers

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is not recommended for obstetrical preoperative medication or for post-delivery analgesia in nursing mothers because its safety in infants and newborns has not been studied. Following a single IV 100 mg dose of tramadol, the cumulative excretion in breast milk within 16 hours post-dose was 100 µg of tramadol (0.1% of the maternal dose) and 27 µg of M1. It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk following an oral dose.

8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and efficacy of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules in patients under 18 years of age have not been established. The use of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules in the pediatric population is not recommended.

8.5 Geriatric Use

In general, caution should be used when selecting the dose for an elderly patient. Usually, dose administration should start at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy

Eight hundred and twelve elderly (65 years of age or older) subjects were exposed to tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules in clinical trials. Of those subjects, two hundred and forty were 75 years of age and older. In general, higher incidence rates of adverse events were observed for patients older than 65 years of age compared with patients 65 years and younger, particularly for the following adverse events: nausea, constipation, somnolence, dizziness, dry mouth, vomiting, asthenia, pruritus, anorexia sweating, fatigue, weakness, postural hypotension and dyspepsia. For this reason, tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should be used with great caution in patients older than 75 years of age [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*].

8.6 Patients with Renal Impairment

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules has not been studied in patients with renal impairment. Impaired renal function results in a decreased rate and extent of excretion of tramadol and its active metabolite, M1. The limited availability of dose strengths of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules does not permit the dosing flexibility required for safe use in patients with severe renal impairment. Therefore, tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used in patients with severe renal impairment [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*, *Warnings and Precautions (5.14)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

8.7 Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules has not been studied in patients with hepatic impairment. The limited availability of dose strengths of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules does not permit the dosing flexibility required for safe use in patients with severe hepatic impairment. Therefore, tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used in patients with severe hepatic impairment [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*, *Warnings and Precautions, (5.14)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

9 DRUG ABUSE and DEPENDENCE

9.1 Controlled Substance

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is not a Controlled Substance.

9.2 Abuse

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules contains tramadol, a mu-agonist opioid. Tramadol, like other opioids used in analgesia, can be abused and is subject to criminal diversion.

Addiction is a primary, chronic, neurobiologic disease, with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. It is characterized by behaviors that include one or more of the following: impaired control over drug use, compulsive use, continued use despite harm, and craving. Drug addiction is a treatable disease, utilizing a multidisciplinary approach, but relapse is common.

“Drug-seeking” behavior is very common in addicts and drug abusers. Drug-seeking tactics include emergency calls or visits near the end of office hours, refusal to undergo appropriate examination, testing or referral, repeated “loss” of prescriptions, tampering with prescriptions and reluctance to provide prior medical records or contact information for other treating physician(s). “Doctor shopping” to obtain additional prescriptions is common among drug abusers and people suffering from untreated addiction.

Abuse and addiction are separate and distinct from physical dependence and tolerance. Physicians should be aware that addiction may not be accompanied by concurrent tolerance and symptoms of physical dependence in all addicts. In addition, abuse of opioids can occur in the absence of true addiction and is characterized by misuse for non-medical purposes, often in combination with other psychoactive substances. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules, like other opioids, may be diverted for non-medical use. Careful record keeping of prescribing information, including quantity, frequency, and renewal requests is strongly advised.

Proper assessment of the patient, proper prescribing practices, periodic re-evaluation of therapy, and proper dispensing and storage are appropriate measures that help to limit abuse of opioid drugs.

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is intended for oral use only. The crushed capsule poses a hazard of overdose and death. This risk is increased with concurrent abuse of alcohol and other substances. With parenteral abuse, the capsule excipients can be expected to result in local tissue necrosis, infection, pulmonary granulomas, and increased risk of endocarditis and valvular heart injury. Parenteral drug abuse is commonly associated with transmission of infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV.

Use in Drug and Alcohol Addiction

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is an opioid with no approved use for 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. Concerns about abuse and addiction should not prevent the proper management of pain. However all patients treated with opioids require careful monitoring for signs of abuse and addiction, because use of opioid analgesic products carries the risk of addiction even under appropriate medical use.

9.3 Dependence

Tolerance is the need for increasing doses of opioids to maintain a defined effect such as analgesia (in the absence of disease progression or other external factors). Physical dependence is manifested by withdrawal symptoms after abrupt discontinuation of a drug or upon administration of an antagonist.

Withdrawal Symptoms

The opioid abstinence or withdrawal syndrome is characterized by some or all of the following: restlessness, lacrimation, rhinorrhea, yawning, perspiration, chills, myalgia, and mydriasis. Other symptoms also may develop, including irritability, anxiety, backache, joint pain, weakness, abdominal cramps, insomnia, nausea, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, or increased blood pressure, respiratory rate, or heart rate.

Generally, tolerance and/or withdrawal are more likely to occur the longer a patient is on continuous opioid therapy.

Withdrawal symptoms may occur if tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is discontinued abruptly. Onset of adverse events are likely to occur after treatment is stopped. These symptoms may include: anxiety, sweating, insomnia, rigors, pain, nausea, tremors, diarrhea, upper respiratory symptoms, piloerection, and rarely hallucinations. Clinical experiences with tramadol suggests that withdrawal symptoms may be reduced by tapering tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules when discontinuing tramadol therapy [see *Dosage and Administration (2)* and *Warnings and Precautions (5.10)*].

10 OVERDOSAGE

10.1 Human Experience

Acute overdose with tramadol can be manifested by respiratory depression, somnolence progressing to stupor or coma, skeletal muscle flaccidity, cold and clammy skin, constricted pupils, bradycardia, hypotension, and death.

Deaths due to overdose have been reported with abuse and misuse of tramadol, by ingesting, inhaling, or injecting the crushed tablets. 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.

10.2 Management of Overdose

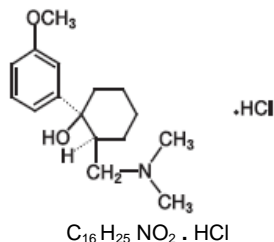
In the treatment of tramadol overdose, primary attention should be given to the reestablishment of a patent airway and institution of assisted or controlled ventilation. Supportive measures (including oxygen and vasopressors) should be employed in the management of circulatory shock and pulmonary edema 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. In animals, convulsions following the administration of toxic doses of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules could be suppressed with barbiturates or benzodiazepines but were increased with naloxone. Naloxone administration did not change the lethality of an overdose in mice. 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.

11 DESCRIPTION

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules (tramadol hydrochloride) capsules is a centrally acting synthetic analgesic in an extended-release oral formulation. The chemical name for tramadol hydrochloride is (\pm) -*cis*-2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-1-(3-methoxyphenyl) cyclohexanol hydrochloride. Its structural formula is:

Figure 1



The molecular weight of tramadol hydrochloride is 299.8. It is a white, bitter, crystalline and odorless powder that is readily soluble in water and ethanol and has a pKa of 9.41. The n-octanol/water log partition coefficient (logP) is 1.35 at pH 7. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules contain a total dose of tramadol HCl 100, 200 and 300 mg in a combination of immediate-release and extended-release components.

Dosage	Immediate-release	Extended-release
100 mg	25 mg	75 mg
200 mg	50 mg	150 mg
300 mg	50 mg	250 mg

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules are white in color. Inactive ingredients include gelatin, titanium dioxide, shellac, FD & C Blue #2 aluminum lake (E132), D & C Red #7 calcium lake (E180), D & C Yellow #10 aluminum lake, lactose monohydrate 200 mesh, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone K30, corn starch, sodium starch glycolate, magnesium stearate, sucrose stearate, hypromellose, talc, polysorbate 80, Eudragit NE 30D, and simethicone emulsion.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules contains tramadol, 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.

12.2 Pharmacodynamics

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. The relationship between exposure of tramadol and M1 and efficacy has not been evaluated in clinical studies.

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

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

The analgesic activity of tramadol is due to both parent drug and the M1 metabolite. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is administered as a racemate and both tramadol and M1 are detected in the circulation. The C_{max} and AUC of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Capsules have been observed to be dose-proportional over an oral dose range of 100 to 300 mg in healthy subjects.

Absorption:

After a single dose administration of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules, T_{max} occurs around 10-12 hours.

The mean C_{max} and AUC of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Capsules after a 300 mg single dose was 308 ng/mL and 6777 ng*hr/mL, respectively under fasting conditions. Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Capsules is bioequivalent to a reference extended-release tramadol product following a single 300 mg dose under fasting conditions.

At steady-state, tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules at 200 mg has been observed to be bioequivalent to a reference extended-release tramadol product at 200 mg under fasting conditions (Table 2). Following administration of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules 200 mg Capsules, steady-state plasma concentrations of both tramadol and M1 are achieved within four days of once daily dosing.

Table 2.

Mean (%CV) Steady-State Pharmacokinetic Parameter Values (N= 38)				
Parameter	Tramadol		O-Desmethyl-Tramadol (M1 Metabolite)	
	Tramadol hydrochloride Extended Release Capsules 200 mg	A Reference Extended-Release Tramadol Product 200 mg	Tramadol hydrochloride Extended Release Capsules 200 mg	A Reference Extended-Release Tramadol Product 200 mg
AUC0-24 (ng.h/mL)	5678 (27%)	5563 (32%)	1319 (34%)	1302 (40%)
Cmax (ng/mL)	332 (25%)	350 (31%)	70 (34%)	74 (41%)
Cmin (ng/mL)	128 (39%)	125 (45%)	35 (34%)	33 (42%)
Tmax	5.9 (66%)	10 (30%)	11 (37%)	13 (29%)
% Fluctuation	88 (19%)	101 (30%)	64 (22%)	76 (30%)

AUC0-24: Area Under the Curve in a 24-hour dosing interval
Cmax: Peak Concentration in a 24-hour dosing interval
Cmin: Trough Concentration in a 24-hour dosing interval
Tmax: Time to Peak Concentration

Food Effects:

The rate and extent of absorption of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Capsules (300 mg) are similar following oral administration with or without food. Therefore, tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules can be administered without regard to meals.

Distribution:

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

Metabolism:

Tramadol is extensively metabolized after oral administration. The major metabolic pathways appear to be N – (mediated by CYP3A4 and CYP2B6) and O – (mediated by CYP2D6) demethylation and glucuronidation or sulfation in the liver. One metabolite (O-desmethyl tramadol, denoted M1) is pharmacologically active in animal models. Formation of M1 is dependent on CYP2D6 and as such is subject to inhibition and polymorphism, which may affect the therapeutic response [see *Drug Interactions (7)*].

Elimination:

Tramadol is eliminated primarily through metabolism by the liver and the metabolites are eliminated primarily by the kidneys. Approximately 30% of the dose is excreted in the urine as unchanged drug, whereas 60% of the dose is excreted as metabolites. The remainder is excreted either as unidentified or as unextractable metabolites. The mean plasma elimination half-lives of racemic tramadol and racemic M1 after administration of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Capsules are approximately 10 and 11 hours, respectively.

Special Populations:

Renal Impairment

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Impaired renal function results in a decreased rate and extent of excretion of tramadol and its active metabolite, M1. The pharmacokinetics of tramadol was studied in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment after receiving multiple doses of an extended-release tramadol product at 100 mg. There is no consistent trend observed for tramadol exposure related to renal function in patients with mild (CLcr: 50-80 mL/min) or moderate (CLcr: 30-50 mL/min) renal impairment in comparison to patients with normal renal function (CLcr > 80 mL/min). However, exposure of M1 increased 20-40% with increased severity of the renal impairment (from normal to mild and moderate). The pharmacokinetics of tramadol has not been studied in patients with severe renal impairment (CLcr < 30 mL/min). The limited availability of dose strengths of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules does not permit the dosing flexibility required for safe use in patients with severe renal impairment. Therefore, tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used in patients with severe renal impairment [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*, *Warnings and Precautions (5.14)* and *Use in Specific Populations (8.6)*]. The total amount of tramadol and M1 removed during a 4-hour dialysis period is less than 7% of the administered dose.

Hepatic Impairment

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules Pharmacokinetics of tramadol was studied in patients with mild or moderate hepatic impairment after receiving multiple doses of an extended-release tramadol product at 100 mg. The exposure of (+)- and (-)-tramadol was similar in mild and moderate hepatic impairment patients in comparison to patients with normal hepatic function. However, exposure of (+)- and (-)-M1 decreased ~50% with increased severity of the hepatic impairment (from normal to mild and moderate). The pharmacokinetics of tramadol has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment. After the administration of tramadol immediate-release tablets to patients with advanced cirrhosis of the liver, tramadol area under the plasma concentration time curve was larger and the tramadol and M1 half-lives were longer than subjects with normal hepatic function. The limited availability of dose strengths of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules does not permit the dosing flexibility required for safe use in patients with severe hepatic impairment. Therefore, tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be used in patients with severe hepatic impairment [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*, *Warnings and Precautions (5.14)*, and *Use in Specific Populations (8.7)*].

Gender

Based on pooled multiple-dose pharmacokinetics studies for an extended-release tramadol product in 166 healthy subjects (111 males and 55 females), the dose-normalized AUC values for tramadol were somewhat higher in females than in males. There was a considerable degree of overlap in values between male and female groups. Dosage adjustment based on gender is not recommended.

Age

The effect of age on pharmacokinetics of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules has not been studied. Healthy elderly subjects aged 65 to 75 years administered an immediate-release formulation of tramadol, have plasma concentrations and elimination half-lives comparable to those observed in healthy subjects less than 65 years of age. In subjects over 75 years, mean maximum plasma concentrations are elevated (208 vs. 162 ng/mL) and the mean 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 (2.3)*].

Drug Interactions:

Poor / Extensive Metabolizers, CYP2D6

The formation of the active metabolite, M1, is mediated by CYP2D6, a polymorphic enzyme. Approximately 7% of the population has reduced activity of the CYP2D6 isoenzyme of cytochrome P-450 metabolizing enzyme system. These individuals are "poor metabolizers" of debrisoquine, dextromethorphan and tricyclic antidepressants, among other drugs. Based on a population PK analysis of Phase 1 studies with IR tablets in healthy subjects, concentrations of tramadol were approximately 20% higher in "poor metabolizers" versus "extensive metabolizers," while M1 concentrations were 40% lower.

CYP2D6 Inhibitors

In vitro drug interaction studies in human liver microsomes indicate that concomitant administration with inhibitors of CYP2D6 such as fluoxetine, paroxetine, and amitriptyline could result in some inhibition of the metabolism of tramadol.

Quinidine

Tramadol is metabolized to active metabolite M1 by CYP2D6. Coadministration of quinidine, a selective inhibitor of CYP2D6, with tramadol ER resulted in a 50-60% increase in tramadol exposure and a 50-60% decrease in M1 exposure. The clinical consequences of these findings are unknown.

To evaluate the effect of tramadol, a CYP2D6 substrate on quinidine, an *in vitro* drug interaction study in human liver microsomes was conducted. The results from this study indicate that tramadol has no effect on quinidine metabolism.

[see [WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS \(5.1, 5.3\)](#) and [DRUG INTERACTIONS \(7.3\)](#)].

CYP3A4 Inhibitors and Inducers

Since tramadol is also metabolized by CYP3A4, administration of CYP3A4 inhibitors, such as ketoconazole and erythromycin, or CYP3A4 inducers, such as rifampin and St. John's Wort, with tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may affect the metabolism of tramadol leading to altered tramadol exposure [see [WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS \(5.1, 5.3\)](#) and [DRUG INTERACTIONS \(7.3\)](#)].

Cimetidine

Concomitant administration of tramadol immediate-release tablets with cimetidine, a weak CYP3A4 inhibitor, does not result in clinically significant changes in tramadol pharmacokinetics. No alteration of the tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules dosage regimen with cimetidine is recommended.

Carbamazepine

Carbamazepine, a CYP3A4 inducer, increases tramadol metabolism. Patients taking carbamazepine may have a significantly reduced analgesic effect of tramadol. Concomitant administration of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules and carbamazepine is not recommended.

13 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenicity assessment has been conducted in mice, rats and p53(+/-) heterozygous mice. 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 0.5 times the maximum daily human dosage of 185 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 treatment-related tumors were noted in a rat carcinogenicity study (dosing orally up to 30 mg/kg, 180 mg/m², or equivalent to the maximum daily human dosage) or in a second study where rats were treated with up to 75 mg/kg/day for males and 100 mg/kg/day for females (approximately 2.4 and 3.2-fold MDHD, respectively) for two years. However, the excessive decrease in body weight gain observed in the rat study might have reduced their sensitivity to any potential carcinogenic effect of the drug.

No carcinogenic effect of tramadol was observed in p53(+/-)-heterozygous mice at oral doses up to 150 mg/kg/day (approximately 2.4-fold maximum daily human dose [MDHD] of 300 mg/day for a 60 kg adult based on body surface conversion) for 26 weeks.

Tramadol was not mutagenic in the following assays: a bacterial reverse mutation assay using *Salmonella* and *E. coli*, a mouse lymphoma assay (in the absence of metabolic activation), chromosomal aberration test in Chinese hamsters, a bone marrow micronucleus test in mice and Chinese hamsters, and a dominant lethal mutation test in mice. 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.

No effects on fertility were observed for tramadol at oral dose levels up to 50 mg/kg/day in male and female rats (1.6-fold the MDHD).

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

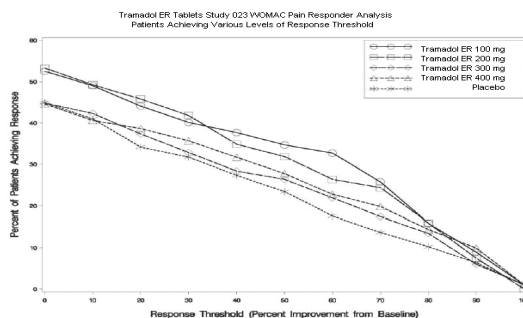
Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is bioequivalent under fasting conditions to another extended-release tramadol product [see *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*] which did demonstrate efficacy in two of four clinical trials of patients with chronic pain. To qualify for inclusion into these studies, patients were required to have moderate to moderately severe pain as defined by a pain intensity score of ≥ 40 mm, off previous medications, on a 0 – 100 mm visual analog scale (VAS).

In one 12-week randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, patients with moderate to moderately severe pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee and/or hip were administered doses from 100 mg to 400 mg daily. Treatment with the extended-release tramadol product was initiated at 100 mg once daily for four days then increased by 100 mg per day increments every five days to the randomized fixed dose. Between 51% and 59% of patients in active treatment groups completed the study and 56% of patients in the placebo group completed the study. Discontinuations due to adverse events were more common in the extended-release tramadol product 200 mg, 300

mg and 400 mg treatment groups (20%, 27%, and 30% of discontinuations, respectively) compared to 14% of the patients treated with the extended-release tramadol product 100 mg and 10% of patients treated with placebo.

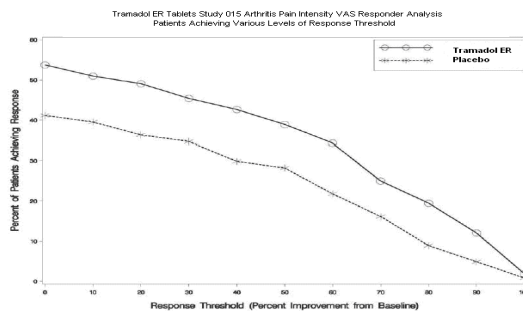
Pain, as assessed by the WOMAC Pain subscale, was measured at 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, and 12 weeks and change from baseline assessed. A responder analysis based on the percent change in WOMAC Pain subscale demonstrated a statistically significant improvement in pain for the 100 mg and 200 mg treatment groups compared to placebo (see Figure 2).

Figure 2



In one 12-week randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled flexible-dosing trial of the extended-release tramadol product in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee, patients titrated to an average daily dose of approximately 270 mg/day. Forty-nine percent of patients randomized to the active treatment group completed the study, while 52% of patients randomized to placebo completed the study. Most of the early discontinuations in the active treatment group were due to adverse events, accounting for 27% of the early discontinuations in contrast to 7% of the discontinuations from the placebo group. Thirty-seven percent of the placebo-treated patients discontinued the study due to lack of efficacy compared to 15% of active-treated patients. The active treatment group demonstrated a statistically significant decrease in the mean Visual Analog Scale (VAS) score, and a statistically significant difference in the responder rate, based on the percent change from baseline in the VAS score, measured at 1, 2, 4, 8, and 12 weeks, between patients receiving the extended-release tramadol product and placebo (see Figure 3).

Figure 3



Four randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules were conducted, none of which demonstrated efficacy but which differed in design from the preceding clinical studies described. Two trials were 12-week randomized placebo-controlled trials of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules 100 mg/day, 200 mg/day, and 300 mg/day versus placebo in patients with moderate to moderately severe osteoarthritis pain of the hip and knee. The other two 12 week trials were similar in design, but only studied tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules 300 mg/day. In this fixed-dose design, subjects were required to titrate to a fixed dose, even if their pain responded to a lower titration dose.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules are supplied as opaque white hard gelatin capsules, imprinted as follows.

100 mg Capsules: White Capsule imprinted with blue ink “G 252” on cap and “100” between lines on the body

Bottle of 7 capsules: NDC 66277-252-01
Bottle of 30 capsules: NDC 66277-252-02
Bottle of 90 capsules: NDC 66277-252-03

200 mg Capsules: White capsule imprinted with violet ink “G 253” on cap and “200” between lines on the body

Bottle of 7 capsules: NDC 66277-253-01
Bottle of 30 capsules: NDC 66277-253-02
Bottle of 90 capsules: NDC 66277-253-03

300 mg Capsules: White capsule imprinted with red ink “G 254” on cap and “300” between lines on the body

Bottle of 7 capsules: NDC 66277-254-01
Bottle of 30 capsules: NDC 66277-254-02
Bottle of 90 capsules: NDC 66277-254-03

Storage

Dispense in a tight container. Store at 25°C; excursions permitted to 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F). Keep out of reach of children.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Inform patients that:

- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is for oral use only and should be swallowed whole. The capsule should not be chewed, dissolved, crushed or split.
- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may cause seizures and/or serotonin syndrome with concomitant use of serotonergic agents (including SRIs, NRIs, and triptans) or drugs that significantly reduce the metabolic clearance of tramadol.
- Not to change the prescribed single-dose or 24-hour dosing regimen of tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules, and that exceeding the prescribed dose can result in respiratory depression, seizures or death.
- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules may impair mental or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery.
- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should not be taken with alcohol containing beverages.
- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules should be used with caution when taking medications such as tranquilizers, hypnotics or other opiate containing analgesics.
- Instruct female patients to inform the prescriber if they are pregnant, think they might become pregnant, or are trying to become pregnant.
- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules is to be taken once-a-day and at approximately the same time every day. Also, exceeding these recommendations and the maximum recommended daily dose can result in respiratory depression, seizures or death.
- Elderly patients, especially those over 75 years of age, and other patients who have renal or hepatic impairments may need to be cautioned about reduced dosages.
- Not to abruptly withdraw or discontinue tramadol therapy, as clinical experience with tramadol suggests the possible onset of signs and symptoms of withdrawal. These affects may be reduced by tapering tramadol therapy.
- Tramadol hydrochloride extended-release capsules must be kept out of reach of children.