

# Drug Fact Sheet

## Tramadol

### Overview

Tramadol is an opioid pain medication used to treat moderate to moderately severe pain. When taken as an immediate-release oral formulation, the onset of pain relief usually occurs within about an hour.



### Street Names

Trammies, Chill Pills, Ultras

### Looks Like

The medication comes in several different oral tablet forms, both in generic form and under several different brand names. Tramadol tablets are divided into different groups depending on their strength, whether they are mixed with other medications, and whether they are immediate or extended release. Most tramadol tablets are either round or oblong shaped and are swallowed. It also comes in liquid form as well.



### Methods of Abuse

Tramadol is commonly abused with other substances and is frequently mixed with alcohol. However, opioids like tramadol actually increase the effects of alcohol. When you abuse tramadol, you are actually releasing the drug faster into the body with a stronger concentration. While this may allow you to experience a euphoric high or feel the effects of tramadol with greater intensity, you also increase the rate your body develops dependency. Your body can come to need tramadol in order to function. Over time, the body and mind crave the presence of the medication. Further, strong physical and psychological dependence on tramadol can make withdrawal painful.

### Affect on the Mind

- Elated mood. Tramadol works in a similar way to many antidepressant medications in that it increases the levels of serotonin in your brain. This leads to feelings of euphoria and well-being. Some users become addicted to Tramadol because of these feelings.
- Anxiety reduction. Tramadol helps users feel relaxed and calm because of the way it changes brain chemistry.
- Lack of pain. Tramadol is a painkiller; it blocks the transmission of pain signals to the brain so that you don't feel pain while you are taking it. This can be dangerous if you injure yourself because you won't feel the pain while on Tramadol.

### Affects on the Body

Tramadol can slow or stop your breathing, especially when you start using this medicine or whenever your dose is changed. Never take tramadol in larger amounts, or for longer than prescribed. Do not crush, break, or open an extended-release pill. Swallow it whole to avoid exposure to a potentially fatal dose. Seizures (convulsions) have occurred in some people taking this medicine. Tramadol may be more likely to cause a seizure if you have a history of seizures or head injury, a metabolic disorder, or if you are taking certain medicines such as antidepressants, muscle relaxers, narcotic, or medicine for nausea and vomiting.