

# Tramadol

Names	The generic name is tramadol. Common brand names include ConZip®, Qdolo®, and Ultracet® (combination tramadol and acetaminophen). Fusepak Synapryn. There may be other names for this medication.
Why Am I Taking Tramadol?	Tramadol treats moderate to severe pain. This medicine is an opioid (narcotic) pain reliever.
How Do I Take This Medication?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tramadol comes as a tablet, a solution (liquid), an extended-release (long-acting) tablet, and an extended-release capsule. All are taken by mouth.</li><li>• Regular tablet and solution: Take with or without food every 4 to 6 hours as needed.</li><li>• Extended-release tablet or capsule: Take once a day, at about the same time every day. You can take it with or without food but be consistent – either always take it with food or always take it without food. Do not crush, break, or chew extended release tablets or capsules.</li><li>• Take tramadol exactly as directed. Do not take more medication than prescribed in a single dose. Do not take more doses each day than prescribed. Taking more tramadol than prescribed may cause serious side effects or death.</li><li>• Take your medicine as directed. Your dose may need to be changed several times to find what works best for you.</li><li>• Drink plenty of liquids to help avoid constipation.</li><li>• <b>Missed a dose?</b> Take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then and take a regular dose. <b>Do not take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.</b></li><li>• Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.</li><li>• Dissolving tablet: Make sure your hands are clean and 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.</li></ul>

## Drugs and Foods to Avoid

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. This drug may interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.

What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?

Tell your doctor if you:

- are allergic to tramadol or other narcotic medications
- have kidney disease, liver disease (including cirrhosis), severe asthma, breathing problems, lung disease (like COPD), head injury, seizures, or a brain tumor
- have a history of head injury, seizures, drug addiction, or depression
- are using an MAO inhibitor or other medicine for depression, St. John's wort, tryptophan, or a blood thinner (anticoagulant)
- use any substance that makes you sleepy such as allergy medicine, opiate pain medicine, or alcohol
- are pregnant or breastfeeding

There are other medications that interact with this drug. Tell your doctor about all prescription and over-the-counter medications, supplements, and vitamins you take.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Sleepiness, problems falling or staying asleep
- Headache
- Feeling nervous or shaky, uncontrollable shaking of a part of the body
- Muscle tightness
- Mood changes
- Heartburn or indigestion
- Constipation
- Dry mouth

When Should I Call the Doctor?

**Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have** signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness; shortness of breath; heart palpitations; or hives

Please let us know if you go to the emergency room or are admitted to the hospital.

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**Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- swelling of the eyes, face, throat, tongue, lips, hands, feet, ankles, or lower legs
- hoarseness
- agitation, hallucinations, fever, sweating, confusion, fast heartbeat, shivering, severe muscle stiffness or twitching, loss of coordination, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- changes in heartbeat
- loss of consciousness
- seizures

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have nausea, constipation that is getting worse or does not go away, have problems getting or keeping an erection (male), or irregular menstruation (females)

What Else  
Should I Know  
About  
Tramadol?

- Tramadol may be habit forming, especially with prolonged use. Take tramadol exactly as directed. Do not take more of it, take it more often, or take it in a different way than directed by your doctor.
- Tramadol may cause serious or life-threatening breathing problems, especially during the first 24 to 72 hours of your treatment and any time your dose is increased. Your doctor will monitor you carefully during your treatment.
- Drinking alcohol, taking prescription or nonprescription medications that contain alcohol, or using street drugs during your treatment with tramadol increases the risk that you will experience these serious, life-threatening side effects. Do not drink alcohol, take prescription or nonprescription medications that contain alcohol, or use street drugs during your treatment.
- This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Do not drive or do anything else that could be dangerous until you know how this medicine affects you.
- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly. Your doctor will need to slowly decrease your dose before you stop it completely.
- Tell any doctor or dentist who treats you 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.
- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children. Never share your medicine with anyone.

- If you have questions about this medication, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.