



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Tramadol

Scope (Staff): All WNHS Staff

Scope (Area): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

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Medication Class

Opioid analgesics

Presentation

Capsule: Immediate Release 50mg

Tablet (12 hour Controlled Release): 50mg

Tablet (12 hour Controlled Release): 100mg

Tablet (12 hour Controlled Release): 150mg

Tablet (12 hour Controlled Release): 200mg

Ampoule: 100mg/2mL

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Schedule 4 Restricted Medication

Dose

Acute moderate to severe pain

IM/IV:

50–100 mg every 4–6 hours when required; maximum 600mg daily

Oral (Immediate release):

50–100 mg every 4–6 hours when required; maximum 400mg daily

Oral (12 hour controlled release):

50–200 mg every 12 hours; maximum 400mg daily

Chronic severe pain

Oral (12 hour controlled release):

50–200 mg every 12 hours; maximum 400mg daily

Post-operative Analgesia

IV:

Tramadol 100mg IV up to 10mL in NaCl 0.9%

Note:

Maximum dose 600mg in 24 hours for inpatients

Maximum dose 400mg in 24 hours at discharge

Maximum dose 300mg in 24 hours if >75 years

Administration

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#) for IM and IV administration instructions

Oral

With or without food

Swallowed whole for controlled release formulations

IV Injection

Inject slowly over 2 to 3 minutes

IV Infusion (preferred parenteral route)

Step 1 Dilution: Dilute with 50 - 100mL NaCl 0.9% or Glucose 5%

Step 2 Administration: Infuse over at least 15 minutes

Monitoring

Treatment with other drugs may increase the likelihood of serotonin toxicity; avoid combinations or monitor carefully (e.g. antidepressants, ondansetron)

Signs of serotonin toxicity

Hypereflexia, tremor, clonus, incoordination, change in mental state, shivering, fever, diarrhoea

See 'Breastfeeding' for monitoring requirements of a baby with a mother taking tramadol while breastfeeding

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative

2nd Trimester: Considered safe*

3rd Trimester: Considered safe*

*Occasional doses of tramadol are considered safe to use during the 2nd and 3rd trimester.

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Breastfeeding

Tramadol is considered safe to use at the lowest effective doses for the shortest duration possible during breastfeeding. However, observe the breastfed infant for adverse effects such as sedation, poor feeding or sleeping pattern changes.

Comment

Refer to [Drug Interactions - Tramadol](#)

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

External Legislation, Standards and Policy (list and hyperlink)

Check if existing higher level documents to avoid content duplication- see DoH WA and National, NMHS policies, WNHS policies, ACSQHC, NSQHS, ACORN

[WNHS Labour and Post-Operative Analgesia](#)

[WNHS Perioperative Preparation and Management](#)

[Palliative Care](#)

[Pain Management](#)

[Miscarriage](#)

[Restricted Schedule 4 \(S4R\) and Schedule 8 \(S8\) Medications](#)

[Guide to Obstetric Anaesthesia](#)









References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Tramadol. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2021 [2021 May 10]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

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The Royal Women's Hospital. Tramadol. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2016 [cited 2021 May 10]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

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