

Package leaflet: Information for the user

TRAMACET® 37.5mg/325mg film-coated tablets

Tramadol hydrochloride/Paracetamol

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet (see section 4).

What is in this leaflet:

1. What TRAMACET is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take TRAMACET
3. How to take TRAMACET
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store TRAMACET
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What TRAMACET is and what it is used for

TRAMACET is used to treat moderate to severe pain when your doctor recommends that a combination of tramadol hydrochloride and paracetamol is needed.

2. What you need to know before you take TRAMACET

Do not take TRAMACET

- if you are allergic to tramadol hydrochloride, paracetamol or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- in cases of acute alcohol poisoning
- if you are taking sleeping pills, pain relievers or medicines that affect mood and emotions
- if you are also taking medicines called monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or have taken MAOIs in the last 14 days before treatment with TRAMACET. MAOIs are used in the treatment of depression or Parkinson's disease.
- if you have a severe liver disorder
- if you have epilepsy that is not adequately controlled by your current medicine.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before taking TRAMACET, if:

- you take other medicines containing paracetamol or tramadol;
- you have liver problems or liver disease or if you notice your eyes and skin turning yellow. This may suggest jaundice or problems with your bile ducts;
- you have kidney problems;
- you have severe difficulties in breathing, for example asthma or severe lung problems;
- you have epilepsy or have already experienced fits or seizures;
- you suffer from depression and you are taking antidepressants as some of them may interact with tramadol (see “Other medicines and TRAMACET”);
- you have recently suffered from a head injury, shock or severe headaches associated with vomiting (being sick);
- you are dependent on any medicine (for example morphine);
- you take other medicines to treat pain that contain buprenorphine, nalbuphine or pentazocine;
- you are going to have an anaesthetic (tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking TRAMACET).

Tolerance, dependence, and addiction

This medicine contains tramadol which is an opioid medicine. Repeated use of opioids can result in the drug being less effective (you become accustomed to it, known as tolerance). Repeated use of TRAMACET can also lead to dependence, abuse and addiction, which may result in life-threatening overdose. The risk of these side effects can increase with a higher dose and longer duration of use.

Dependence or addiction can make you feel that you are no longer in control of how much medicine you need to take or how often you need to take it.

The risk of becoming dependent or addicted varies from person to person. You may have a greater risk of becoming dependent on or addicted to TRAMACET if:

- you or anyone in your family have ever abused or been dependent on alcohol, prescription medicines or illegal drugs (“addiction”).
- you are a smoker.
- you have ever had problems with your mood (depression, anxiety, or a personality disorder) or have been treated by a psychiatrist for other mental illnesses.

If you notice any of the following signs whilst taking TRAMACET, it could be a sign that you have become dependent or addicted:

- you need to take the medicine for longer than advised by your doctor
- you need to take more than the recommended dose
- you are using the medicine for reasons other than prescribed, for instance, ‘to stay calm’ or ‘help you sleep’
- you have made repeated, unsuccessful attempts to quit or control the use of the medicine
- When you stop taking the medicine you feel unwell, and you feel better once taking the medicine again (‘withdrawal effects’)

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If you notice any of these signs, speak to your doctor to discuss the best treatment pathway for you, including when it is appropriate to stop and how to stop safely (See section 3, If you stop taking TRAMACET).

During treatment with TRAMACET, tell your doctor straight away if: you have severe illnesses, including severe renal impairment or sepsis (when bacteria and their toxins circulate in the blood leading to organ damage), or you suffer from malnutrition, chronic alcoholism or if you are also taking flucloxacillin (an antibiotic). A serious condition called metabolic acidosis (a blood and fluid abnormality) has been reported in patients in these situations when paracetamol is used at regular doses for a prolonged period or when paracetamol is taken together with flucloxacillin. Symptoms of metabolic acidosis may include: serious breathing difficulties with deep rapid breathing, drowsiness, feeling sick (nausea) and being sick (vomiting).

Sleep-related breathing disorders

TRAMACET contains an active substance that belongs to the group of opioids. Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders, for example central sleep apnea (shallow/pause of breathing during sleep) and sleep-related hypoxemia (low level of oxygen in the blood).

The risk of experiencing central sleep apnea is dependent on the dose of opioids. Your doctor may consider decreasing your total opioid dosage if you experience central sleep apnea.

There is a small risk that you may experience a so-called serotonin syndrome that can occur after having taken tramadol in combination with certain antidepressants or tramadol alone. Seek medical advice immediately if you have any of the symptoms related to this serious syndrome (see section 4 “Possible side effects”).

Tramadol is transformed in the liver by an enzyme. Some people have a variation of this enzyme and this can affect people in different ways. In some people, they may not get enough pain relief but other people are more likely to get serious side effects. If you notice any of the following side effects, you must stop taking this medicine and seek immediate medical advice: slow or shallow breathing, confusion, sleepiness, small pupils, feeling or being sick, constipation, lack of appetite.

If any of the above-mentioned points applied to you in the past or applies to you while you are taking TRAMACET, please make sure your doctor knows. He/she can then decide whether you should continue to use this medicine.

Children and adolescents

Use in children with breathing problems:

Tramadol is not recommended in children with breathing problems, since the symptoms of tramadol toxicity may be worse in these children.

Talk to your doctor if you experience any of the following symptoms while taking TRAMACET: Extreme fatigue, lack of appetite, severe abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting or low blood pressure. This may indicate that you have adrenal insufficiency (low cortisol levels). If you have these symptoms, contact your doctor, who will decide if you need to take hormone supplement.

Other medicines and TRAMACET

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Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Do not exceed the maximum daily doses of paracetamol or tramadol from this or other medicines. Do not take TRAMACET with MAOIs (see section ‘Do not take TRAMACET’).

TRAMACET is not recommended to be taken with the following:

- carbamazepine (a medicine used to treat epilepsy or some types of pain)
- buprenorphine, nalbuphine or pentazocine (opioid-type pain relievers).

Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking:

- flucloxacillin (antibiotic), due to a serious risk of blood and fluid abnormality (called metabolic acidosis) that must have urgent treatment (see section 2). High anion gap metabolic acidosis is a serious disease that must have urgent treatment.

The risk of side effects increases, if you are taking:

- triptans (used for migraine) or selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs, used for depression). Check with your doctor if you experience confusion, restlessness, fever, sweating, uncoordinated movement of limbs or eyes, uncontrollable jerking of muscles or diarrhoea.
- other pain relievers such as morphine and codeine (also as cough medicine), baclofen (a muscle relaxant), medicines used to lower blood pressure, or medicines to treat allergies. Check with your doctor if you feel drowsy or feel faint.

Concomitant use of TRAMACET and sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or other sedatives or medicines that impair breathing activity (e.g. opioids) increases the risk of drowsiness, difficulties in breathing (respiratory depression), coma and may be life-threatening. Because of this, concomitant use should only be considered when other treatment options are not possible. However if your doctor prescribes TRAMACET together with sedative medicines the dose and duration of concomitant treatment should be limited by your doctor.

Please tell your doctor about all sedative medicines you are taking, and follow your doctor’s dose recommendation closely. It could be helpful to inform friends or relatives to be aware of the signs and symptoms stated above. Contact your doctor when experiencing such symptoms.

- medicines which may cause convulsions (fits), such as certain antidepressants or antipsychotics. The risk having a fit may increase if you take TRAMACET at the same time. Your doctor will tell you whether TRAMACET is suitable for you.
- certain antidepressants. TRAMACET may interact with these medicines and you may experience serotonin syndrome (see section 4 “Possible side effects”).
- warfarin or phenprocoumon (for blood thinning). The effectiveness of such medicines may be altered and bleeding may occur (see section 4).
- Gabapentin or pregabalin to treat epilepsy or pain due to nerve problems (neuropathic pain).
- medicines used to treat allergies, travel sickness or nausea (antihistamines or antiemetics).
- medicines to treat psychiatric disorders (antipsychotics or neuroleptics).
- muscle relaxants.
- medicines to treat Parkinson’s disease.

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The effectiveness of TRAMACET may be altered if you also take:

- metoclopramide, domperidone or ondansetron (medicines used to treat nausea and vomiting/being sick)
- cholestyramine (medicine used to reduce cholesterol in the blood)

TRAMACET with food and alcohol

Do not drink alcohol while you are taking TRAMACET, as you may feel drowsier.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Do not take TRAMACET while you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

Check with your doctor if you become pregnant during treatment with TRAMACET and before taking any further tablets.

Breast-feeding

Tramadol is excreted into breast milk. For this reason, you should not take TRAMACET more than once during breast-feeding, or alternatively, if you take TRAMACET more than once, you should stop breast-feeding.

Based on human experience tramadol is suggested not to influence female or male fertility. No data on the influence of the combination of tramadol and paracetamol on fertility are available.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Driving and using machines

If you feel drowsy while taking TRAMACET, do not drive, use tools or use machinery.

The medicine can affect your ability to drive as it may make you sleepy or dizzy.

- Do not drive while taking this medicine until you know how it affects you.
- It is an offence to drive if this medicine affects your ability to drive.
- However, you would not be committing an offence if:
 - The medicine has been prescribed to treat a medical or dental problem and
 - You have taken it according to the instructions given by the prescriber or in the information provided with the medicine and
 - It was not affecting your ability to drive safely

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure whether it is safe for you to drive while taking this medicine.

TRAMACET contains lactose

Lactose is an ingredient in these tablets.

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If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

TRAMACET contains sodium

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. How to take TRAMACET

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Before starting treatment and regularly during treatment, your doctor will discuss with you what you may expect from using TRAMACET, when and how long you need to take it, when to contact your doctor, and when you need to stop it (see also section 2).

The dosage should be adjusted to the intensity of your pain and your individual pain sensitivity. In general the lowest pain-relieving dose should be taken.
Take TRAMACET for as short a time as possible and no longer than your doctor has told you.

Adults and adolescents over 12 years:

The recommended starting dose unless otherwise prescribed by your doctor is 2 tablets for adults and adolescents over 12 years. If required, further doses may be taken, as instructed by your doctor. The shortest time between doses must be at least 6 hours.
Do not take more than 8 tablets per day.

Children under 12 years of age:

- not recommended.

Older people:

In elderly patients (above 75 years) the excretion of tramadol may be delayed. If this applies to you, your doctor may recommend prolonging the dosage interval.

Severe liver or kidney disease (insufficiency)/dialysis patients:

Patients with severe liver and/or kidney insufficiency should not take TRAMACET. If in your case the insufficiency is mild or moderate, your doctor may recommend prolonging the dosage interval.

Method of administration:

The tablets are for oral use.
Swallow the tablets whole with sufficient liquid.
Do not break or chew the tablets.

If you think that the effect of TRAMACET is too strong (you feel very drowsy or have difficulty breathing) or too weak (you do not have enough pain relief), contact your doctor.

If you take more TRAMACET than you should

Talk to a doctor at once if you take too much of this medicine even if you feel well.

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After taking very high doses, pin-point pupils, vomiting, fall in blood pressure, fast heart beat, collapse, disturbed consciousness up to coma (deep unconsciousness), epileptic fits, and difficulty in breathing up to cessation of breathing and death may occur. In such cases a doctor should be called immediately.

An overdose of paracetamol can cause nausea and vomiting. This is because too much paracetamol can cause delayed, serious liver damage. Severe cases may lead to liver failure, brain issues, coma, or death.

If you forget to take TRAMACET

If you forget to take the tablets, pain is likely to return.

Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses; simply continue taking the tablets as before.

If you stop taking TRAMACET

You should not suddenly stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to. If you want to stop taking your medicine, discuss this with your doctor first, particularly if you have been taking it for a long time. Your doctor will advise you when and how to stop, which may be by lowering the dose gradually to reduce the chance of developing unnecessary side effects (withdrawal symptoms).

People may:

- feel agitated, anxious, nervous or shaky
- be over active
- have difficulty sleeping
- have stomach or bowel disorders.

Very few people may also get:

- panic attacks
- hallucinations, unusual perceptions such as itching, tingling and numbness
- ringing in the ears.

If you experience any of these complaints after stopping this medicine, please contact your doctor. Other side effect information is listed in section 4.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Some side effects could be serious. Contact your doctor immediately if any of the following occur:

- rarely cases of skin rash, indicating an allergic reaction, may develop with sudden swelling of the face and neck, difficulties breathing or drop of blood pressure and fainting. If this happens to you, stop treatment. Do not take the medicine again.

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- prolonged or unexpected bleeding, from the use of TRAMACET with medicines used to thin the blood (e.g. warfarin, phenprocoumon).

Additionally, if any of the following side effects get serious, contact your doctor or pharmacist:

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- nausea
- dizziness, drowsiness.

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- vomiting (being sick), digestion problems (constipation, flatulence, diarrhoea), stomach pain, dry mouth
- itching, sweating (hyperhidrosis)
- headache, shaking
- confusional state, sleep disorders, mood changes (anxiety, nervousness, feeling of high spirits).

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- increase in pulse or blood pressure, heart rate or heart rhythm disorders
- tingling, numbness or feeling of pins and needles in the limbs, ringing in the ears, involuntary muscle twitching
- depression, nightmares, hallucinations (hearing, seeing or sensing things that are not really there), memory lapses
- difficulty breathing
- difficulty swallowing, blood in the stools
- skin reactions (for example rashes, hives)
- increase in liver enzyme values
- presence of albumin in urine, difficulties or pain on passing urine

- shivering, hot flushes, pain in the chest

Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people

- fits, uncoordinated movements, transient loss of consciousness (syncope)
- drug dependence
- delirium
- vision blurred, constriction of the pupil (miosis)
- speech disorders
- excessive dilation of the pupils (mydriasis)

Unknown: frequency unknown:

- decrease in blood sugar level (hypoglycaemia)

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In addition, the following side effects have been reported by people using medicines that contain only tramadol or only paracetamol:

- feeling faint when getting up from a lying or sitting position, slow heart rate, fainting
- changes in appetite
- muscle weakness, slower or weaker breathing
- mood changes, changes in activity, changes in perception
- worsening of existing asthma
- nose bleeds or bleeding gums, which may result from a low blood platelet count.
- very rare cases of serious skin reactions have been reported with paracetamol.
- rare cases of respiratory depression have been reported with tramadol.
- Frequency not known: hiccups.

Serotonin syndrome, that can manifest as mental status changes (e.g. agitation, hallucinations, coma), and other effects, such as fever, increase in heart rate, unstable blood pressure, involuntary twitching, muscular rigidity, lack of coordination and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea) (see section 2 “What you need to know before you take TRAMACET”).

A serious condition that can make blood more acidic (called metabolic acidosis), in patients with severe illness using paracetamol (see section 2) with an unknown frequency.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store TRAMACET

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Store this medicine in a safe and secure storage space, where other people cannot access it. It can cause serious harm and be fatal to people when it has not been prescribed for them.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is printed on the carton and blister. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not throw away any medicine via waste water or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What TRAMACET contains

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The active substances are tramadol hydrochloride and paracetamol.

One (1) tablet contains 37.5 mg tramadol hydrochloride and 325 mg paracetamol.

The other ingredients are:

- **Tablet core:** powdered cellulose, pregelatinised starch, sodium starch glycolate (type A), maize starch, magnesium stearate.
- **Film-coating:** hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide (E 171), macrogol 6000, yellow iron oxide (E 172), propylene glycol, talc.

What TRAMACET looks like and contents of the pack

TRAMACET film-coated tablets are pale yellow film-coated tablets, marked with the manufacturer's logo  on one side, marked T5 on the other side.

TRAMACET film-coated tablets are packed in blister strips.

TRAMACET comes in cartons of 2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 100 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

Grünenthal Pharma Ltd
4045 Kingswood Road
Citywest Business Park
Citywest
Co. Dublin
Ireland.

Manufacturers:

Grünenthal GmbH, Zieglerstrasse 6, D-52078, Aachen, Federal Republic of Germany.

Other formats of this leaflet

A service is available to listen to or request a copy of this leaflet in Braille, large print or audio.

- **Please call free of charge:** 0800 198 5000 (UK only)

Please be ready to give the following information:

- **Product name:** TRAMACET 37.5 mg/325 mg, film coated-tablets
- **Reference number:** PL 50414/0024

This leaflet was last revised in:

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