

# Ultram (tramadol) basics

**Treats moderate to severe pain.** Ultram (tramadol) works well for pain. Although it's a little weaker than other opioids, it can still be addictive.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Ultram (tramadol)</b> Drug effectiveness					
<b>Possible side effects</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>Long term</b>
<b>Dizziness</b> 26% chance					
<b>Nausea</b> 24% chance					
<b>Constipation</b> 24% chance					
<b>Headache</b> 18% chance					
<b>Sleepiness</b> 16% chance					

## Tips from pharmacists

- Starts working in one hour and works best if you take it regularly.
- Can make you dizzy or drowsy, so avoid activities that need you to be fully alert until you know how this medicine affects you.
- Take Ultram (tramadol) with food to avoid an upset stomach.
- If you have liver or kidney disease, you may require a lower dose of Ultram (tramadol).
- Swallow the extended-release tablets whole. Do not break, crush or chew. Take the extended-release tablets exactly as your doctor and pharmacist tell you. If you forget, take it as soon as you remember. Don't take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.
- Depending on the type of pain you are experiencing, Ultram (tramadol) may take a few days before you see its full effect.

## Risks and warnings

This drug carries significant risks, including addiction.

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Breathing problems

Taking too much Ultram (tramadol) can cause irregular or slow breathing that can result in coma and death. If your lips and fingers start turning blue from low oxygen, see a doctor immediately. In the hospital, doctors can give you a medicine that reverses the effects of Ultram (tramadol). Don't take more than your doctor prescribes. Always check with your doctor before starting any new medicines or supplements.

### Addiction, abuse, and overdose

Suddenly stopping Ultram (tramadol) after long periods of use or after high doses can result in withdrawal symptoms (like anxiety, sweating, insomnia, pain). Discontinue slowly with the help of a doctor. Don't take more than your doctor prescribes. Avoid use with alcohol, other sedating medicines, or illegal substances.

### Interactions with other drugs

Ultram (tramadol) can interact with your other medicines, which can change how it affects your pain. Stopping these medicines while taking Ultram (tramadol) can make you more likely to have serious, life-threatening side effects. Make sure your doctor and pharmacist know all the medicines you're taking, and let them know of any changes.