

# TRAMADOL

**Other names:** Arrow Tramadol®, Tramal®,  
Tramadol Hydrochloride (AFT)®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why you are taking this medicine?

Tramadol is used for the treatment and prevention of moderate to severe pain. It works on the spinal cord nerves and brain to reduce the pain you feel.

It is chemically related to other opioids (e.g. codeine, morphine).

## When to take this medicine

Always check the prescription label for directions on how to take your medicine.

- Modified release tablets (SR – Sustained Release), release the drug slowly over time to give a more even effect. They should not be broken, crushed or chewed - otherwise the drug may be released too quickly and cause side effects. These may be taken with or without food.
- Do not take this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to codeine or other opioids.

## If you miss a dose

Take your dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

## Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- very fast or racing heartbeat
- hallucinations or confusion
- difficulty peeing (urinating)
- shortness of breath
- blurred vision
- seizures

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you:

- feeling dizzy, drowsy or sleepy
- nausea and vomiting
- constipation (trouble having a bowel motion)
- headache
- feeling anxious or shaky
- sleeplessness
- dry mouth
- perspiration (sweating)

Tramadol may cause drowsiness. Make sure your reactions are normal before driving, operating machinery or doing any other jobs which could be dangerous if you were not fully alert.

This list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

### **Other Medicines**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Careful monitoring of tramadol is required by your doctor or pharmacist when taking other medication, for example:

- carbamazepine (anti-epileptic) – this may require an increase in tramadol dose
- anti-depressant medication: MAOI (monoamine oxidase inhibitors - phenelzine) and Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (e.g. fluoxetine, paroxetine), both have been implicated in causing seizures. Also, this combination can cause a syndrome known as 'Serotonin Syndrome' which is characterised by a number of symptoms, such as; confusion, agitation, fever, sweating, diarrhoea, muscle contractions and giddiness
- restrict drinking alcohol or taking drugs that make you drowsy or sleepy, such as sleeping pills (e.g. zopiclone) some hayfever or cold medicines and other opioids e.g. codeine

### **Pregnancy**

Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding

### **Storage**

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**