**TRAMADOL CAPSULES BP 100 MG**

## 1.3.1. SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS (SmPC)

### 1. Name of the medicinal product
TRAMADOL CAPSULES BP 100 MG

### 2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

Each Hard Gelatine Capsule contains:
Tramadol hydrochloride B.P. ……..100mg
Excipients……q.s
Approved colours used in empty capsule shell.

### 3. Pharmaceutical form
*Oral*

Description: Dark green/Light metallic green size "4" hard gelatin capsules containing white colored powder.

### 4. Clinical particulars
### 4.1 Therapeutic indications
The treatment of moderate to severe pain.

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration
Posology

The dose should be adjusted to the intensity of the pain and the sensitivity of the individual patient. The lowest effective dose for analgesia should generally be selected. The total daily dose of 400 mg active substance should not be exceeded, except in special circumstances. Unless otherwise prescribed, Tramadol Hydrochloride capsules should be administered as follows:

Adults and adolescents over 12 years

**Acute pain:** An initial dose of 100mg is usually necessary. This can be followed by doses of 50 or 100mg at 4 – 6 hourly intervals, and duration of treatment should be matched to clinical need

**Pain Associated with Chronic Conditions:** An initial dose of 50mg is advised and then titration according to pain severity. The need for continued treatment should be assessed at regular intervals as withdrawal symptoms and dependence have been reported

Paediatric population

Tramadol Hydrochloride capsules are not suitable for children below the age of 12 years.

Elderly

A dose adjustment is not usually necessary in patients up to 75 years without clinically manifest hepatic or renal insufficiency. In elderly patients over 75 years elimination may be prolonged. Therefore, if necessary the dosage interval is to be extended according to the patient's requirements.

Renal insufficiency/dialysis and hepatic insufficiency

In patients with renal and/or hepatic insufficiency the elimination of tramadol is delayed. In these patients prolongation of the dosage intervals should be carefully considered according to the patient's requirements.

Method of administration

For oral administration

The capsules are to be taken whole, not divided or chewed, with sufficient liquid, with or without food.

Duration of administration

Prior to starting treatment with opioids, a discussion should be held with patients to put in place a strategy for ending treatment with Tramadol in order to minimise the risk of addiction and drug withdrawal syndrome.

Tramadol should under no circumstances be administered for longer than absolutely necessary. If long-term pain treatment with tramadol is necessary in view of the nature and severity of the illness, then careful and regular monitoring should be carried out (if necessary with breaks in treatment) to establish whether and to what extent further treatment is necessary.

**4.3 Contraindications**

Tramadol capsules are contraindicated:

• In hypersensitivity to the active substance or any of the excipients

• in acute intoxication with alcohol, hypnotics, analgesics, opioids, or other psychotropic medicinal products).

• In patients who are receiving MAO inhibitors or who have taken them within the last 14 days

• In patients with epilepsy not adequately controlled by treatment.

• During breastfeeding, if long term treatment, i.e. more than 2 to 3 days, is necessary

• For use in narcotic withdrawal treatment.

**4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

Tramadol may only be used with particular caution in opioid-dependent patients, patients with head injury, shock, a reduced level of consciousness of uncertain origin, disorders of the respiratory centre or function, increased intracranial pressure.

In patients sensitive to opiates the product should only be used with caution.

Concomitant use of Tramadol and sedating medicinal products such as benzodiazepines or related substances, may result in sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death. Because of these risks, concomitant prescribing with these sedating medicinal products should be reserved for patients for whom alternative treatment options are not possible. If a decision is made to prescribe Tramadol concomitantly with sedating medicinal products, the lowest effective dose of tramadol should be used, and the duration of concomitant treatment should be as short as possible.

The patients should be followed closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation. In this respect, it is strongly recommended to inform patients and their caregivers to be aware of these symptoms.

Convulsions have been reported in patients receiving tramadol at the recommended dose levels. The risk may be increased when doses of tramadol exceed the recommended upper daily dose limit (400 mg). In addition, tramadol may increase the seizure risk in patients taking other medicinal products that lowers the seizure threshold. Patients with epilepsy or those susceptible to seizures should be only treated with tramadol if there are compelling circumstances.

Care should be taken when treating patients with respiratory depression, or if concomitant CNS depressant drugs are being administered, or if the recommended dosage is significantly exceeded as the possibility of respiratory depression cannot be excluded in these situations.

Sleep-related breathing disorders

Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders including central sleep apnoea (CSA) and sleep-related hypoxemia. Opioid use increases the risk of CSA in a dose-dependent fashion. In patients who present with CSA, consider decreasing the total opioid dosage.

Drug dependence, tolerance and potential for abuse

For all patients, prolonged use of this product may lead to drug dependence (addiction), even at therapeutic doses. The risks are increased in individuals with current or past history of substance misuse disorder (including alcohol misuse) or mental health disorder (e.g., major depression).

Additional support and monitoring may be necessary when prescribing for patients at risk of opioid misuse.

A comprehensive patient history should be taken to document concomitant medications, including over-the-counter medicines and medicines obtained on-line, and past and present medical and psychiatric conditions.

Patients may find that treatment is less effective with chronic use and express a need to increase the dose to obtain the same level of pain control as initially experienced. Patients may also supplement their treatment with additional pain relievers. These could be signs that the patient is developing tolerance. The risks of developing tolerance should be explained to the patient.

Overuse or misuse may result in overdose and/or death. It is important that patients only use medicines that are prescribed for them at the dose they have been prescribed and do not give this medicine to anyone else.

Patients should be closely monitored for signs of misuse, abuse, or addiction.

The clinical need for analgesic treatment should be reviewed regularly.

Drug withdrawal syndrome

Prior to starting treatment with any opioids, a discussion should be held with patients to put in place a withdrawal strategy for ending treatment with Tramadol.

Drug withdrawal syndrome may occur upon abrupt cessation of therapy or dose reduction. When a patient no longer requires therapy, it is advisable to taper the dose gradually to minimise symptoms of withdrawal. Tapering from a high dose may take weeks to months.

The opioid drug withdrawal syndrome is characterised by some or all of the following: restlessness, lacrimation, rhinorrhoea, yawning, perspiration, chills, myalgia, mydriasis and palpitations. Other symptoms may also develop including irritability, agitation, anxiety, hyperkinesia, tremor, weakness, insomnia, anorexia, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, increased blood pressure, increased respiratory rate or heart rate.

If women take this drug during pregnancy, there is a risk that their newborn infants will experience neonatal withdrawal syndrome.

Hyperalgesia

Hyperalgesia may be diagnosed if the patient on long-term opioid therapy presents with increased pain. This might be qualitatively and anatomically distinct from pain related to disease progression or to breakthrough pain resulting from development of opioid tolerance. Pain associated with hyperalgesia tends to be more diffuse than the pre-existing pain and less defined in quality. Symptoms of hyperalgesia may resolve with a reduction of opioid dose.

Tramadol is not suitable as a substitute in opioid-dependent patients. Although it is an opioid agonist, tramadol cannot suppress morphine withdrawal symptoms.

*CYP2D6 metabolism*

Tramadol is metabolised by the liver enzyme CYP2D6. If a patient has a deficiency or is completely lacking this enzyme an adequate analgesic effect may not be obtained. Estimates indicate that up to 7% of the Caucasian population may have this deficiency. However, if the patient is an ultra-rapid metaboliser there is a risk of developing <side effects> of opioid toxicity even at commonly prescribed doses.

General symptoms of opioid toxicity include confusion, somnolence, shallow breathing, small pupils, nausea, vomiting, constipation and lack of appetite. In severe cases this may include symptoms of circulatory and respiratory depression, which may be life threatening and very rarely fatal. Estimates of prevalence of ultra-rapid metabolisers in different populations are summarised below:

| **Population** | **Prevalence %** |
|---|---|
| African/Ethiopian | 29% |
| African American | 3.4% to 6.5% |
| Asian | 1.2% to 2% |
| Caucasian | 3.6% to 6.5% |
| Greek | 6.0% |
| Hungarian | 1.9% |
| Northern European | 1% to 2% |

Post-operative use in children

There have been reports in the published literature that tramadol given post-operatively in children after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy for obstructive sleep apnoea, led to rare, but life threatening adverse events. Extreme caution should be exercised when tramadol is administered to children for post-operative pain relief and should be accompanied by close monitoring for symptoms of opioid toxicity including respiratory depression.

Children with compromised respiratory function

Tramadol is not recommended for use in children in whom respiratory function might be compromised including neuromuscular disorders, severe cardiac or respiratory conditions, upper respiratory or lung infections, multiple trauma or extensive surgical procedures. These factors may worsen symptoms of opioid toxicity.

**4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

Tramadol should not be combined with MAO inhibitors

In patients treated with MAO inhibitors in the 14 days prior to the use of the opioid pethidine, life threatening interactions on the central nervous system, respiratory and cardiovascular

function have been observed. The same interactions with MAO inhibitors cannot be ruled out during treatment with Tramadol.

Concomitant administration of Tramadol with other centrally depressant medicinal products including alcohol may potentiate the CNS effects.

The concomitant use of opioids with sedating medicinal products such as benzodiazepines or related substances increases the risk of sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death because of additive CNS depressant effect.

The dose of Tramadol and the duration of the concomitant use should be limited

The results of pharmacokinetic studies have so far shown that on the concomitant or previous administration of cimetidine (enzyme inhibitor) clinically relevant interactions are unlikely to occur. Simultaneous or previous administration of carbamazepine (enzyme inducer) may reduce the analgesic effect and shorten the duration of action.

Tramadol can induce convulsions and increase the potential for selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, (SSRIs), serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), tricyclic anti-depressants, anti-psychotics and other seizure threshold lowering medicinal products (such as bupropion, mirtazapine, tetrahydrocannabinol) to cause convulsions.

Concomitant therapeutic use of tramadol and serotonergic drugs, such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), MAO inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants and mirtazapine may cause serotonin toxicity. Serotonin syndrome is likely when one of the following is observed:

• Spontaneous clonus

• Inducible or ocular clonus with agitation or diaphoresis

• Tremor and hyperreflexia

• Hypertonia and body temperature > 38 °C and inducible or ocular clonus.

Withdrawal of the serotoninergic medicinal products usually brings about a rapid improvement. Treatment depends on the nature and severity of the symptoms.

Caution should be exercised during concomitant treatment with tramadol and coumarin derivatives (e.g. warfarin) due to reports of increased INR with major bleeding and ecchymoses in some patients.

Other active substances known to inhibit CYP3A4, such as ketoconazole and erythromycin, might inhibit the metabolism of tramadol (N-demethylation) probably also the metabolism of the active Odemethylated metabolite. The clinical importance of such an interaction has not been studied (see section 4.8).

In a limited number of studies the pre- or postoperative application of the antiemetic 5-HT3 antagonist ondansetron increased the requirement of tramadol in patients with postoperative pain.

## 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Animal studies with tramadol revealed at very high doses effects on organ development, ossification and neonatal mortality. Teratogenic effects were not observed. Tramadol crosses the placenta. There is inadequate evidence available on the safety of tramadol in human pregnancy. Therefore tramadol should not be used in pregnant women.

Tramadol - administered before or during birth - does not affect uterine contractility. In new-born infants it may induce changes in the respiratory rate which are usually not clinically relevant. Chronic use during pregnancy may lead to neonatal withdrawal symptoms.

**Breast-feeding**

Approximately 0.1% of the maternal dose of tramadol is excreted in breast milk. In the immediate post-partum period, for maternal oral daily dosage up to 400 mg, this corresponds to a mean amount of tramadol ingested by breast-fed infants of 3% of the maternal weight-adjusted dosage. For this reason tramadol should not be used during lactation or alternatively, breast-feeding should be discontinued during treatment with tramadol. Discontinuation of breast-feeding is generally not necessary following a single dose of tramadol.

**4.8 Undesirable effects**

The most commonly reported adverse reactions are nausea and dizziness, both occurring in more than 10 % of patients.

The frequencies are defined as follows:

Very common: ≥1/10

Common: ≥1/100, <1/10

Uncommon: ≥1/1000, <1/100

Rare: ≥1/10 000, <1/1000

Very rare: <1/10 000

Not known: cannot be estimated from the available data

Cardiac disorders:

Uncommon: cardiovascular regulation (palpitation, tachycardia). These adverse reactions may occur especially on intravenous administration and in patients who are physically stressed.,

Rare: bradycardia

Investigations:

Rare: increase in blood pressure

Vascular disorders:

Uncommon: cardiovascular regulation (postural hypotension or cardiovascular collapse). These adverse reactions may occur especially on intravenous administration and in patients who are physically stressed.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders:

Rare: changes in appetite

Not known: hypoglycaemia

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:

Rare: respiratory depression, dyspnoea

If the recommended doses are considerably exceeded and other centrally depressant substances are administered concomitantly, respiratory depression may occur.

Worsening of asthma has been reported, though a causal relationship has not been established.

Nervous system disorders:

Very common: dizziness

Common: headache, somnolence

Rare: paraesthesia, tremor, epileptiform convulsions, involuntary muscle contractions, abnormal coordination, syncope, speech disorders.

Convulsions occurred mainly after administration of high doses of tramadol or after concomitant treatment with medicinal products which can lower the seizure threshold

Psychiatric disorders:

Rare: hallucinations, confusion, sleep disturbance, delirium, anxiety and nightmares.

Psychic adverse reactions may occur following administration of Tramadol which vary individually in intensity and nature (depending on personality and duration of treatment). These include changes in mood (usually elation, occasionally dysphoria), changes in activity (usually suppression, occasionally increase) and changes in cognitive and sensorial capacity (e.g. decision behaviour, perception disorders).

Not known: Drug dependence

Eye disorders:

Rare: miosis, mydriasis, blurred vision

Gastrointestinal disorders:

Very common: nausea

Common: vomiting, constipation, dry mouth

Uncommon: retching; gastrointestinal irritation (a feeling of pressure in the stomach, bloating), diarrhoea

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:

Common: hyperhidrosis

Uncommon: dermal reactions (e.g. pruritus, rash, urticaria)

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:

Rare: motorial weakness

Hepatobiliary disorders:

In a few isolated cases an increase in liver enzyme values has been reported in a temporal connection with the therapeutic use of tramadol.

Renal and urinary disorders:

Rare: micturition disorders (dysuria and urinary retention)

Immune system disorders:

Rare: allergic reactions (e.g. dyspnoea, bronchospasm, wheezing, angioneurotic oedema) and anaphylaxis

General disorders:

Common: fatigue

Uncommon: drug withdrawal syndrome. Symptoms of drug withdrawal syndrome, similar to those occurring during opiate withdrawal, may occur as follows: agitation, anxiety, nervousness, insomnia, hyperkinesia, tremor and gastrointestinal symptoms. Other symptoms that have very rarely been seen with tramadol discontinuation include: panic attacks, severe anxiety, hallucinations, paraesthesias, tinnitus and unusual CNS symptoms (i.e. confusion, delusions, depersonalisation, derealisation, paranoia).

**4.9 Overdose**

*Symptoms*

In principle, on intoxication with tramadol symptoms similar to those of other centrally acting analgesics (opioids) are to be expected. These include in particular miosis, vomiting, cardiovascular collapse, consciousness disorders up to coma, convulsions and respiratory depression up to respiratory arrest.

*Treatment*

The general emergency measures apply. Keep open the respiratory tract (aspiration), maintain respiration and circulation depending on the symptoms. The stomach is to be emptied by vomiting (conscious patient) or gastric irrigation. The antidote for respiratory depression is naloxone. In animal experiments naloxone had no effect on convulsions. In such cases diazepam should be given intravenously.

Tramadol is minimally eliminated from the serum by haemodialysis or haemo-filtration. Therefore treatment of acute intoxication with tramadol with haemodialysis or haemofiltration alone is not suitable for detoxification.

**5. Pharmacological properties**

**5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: other opioids

ATC code: N02A X02

Tramadol is a centrally acting opioid analgesic. It is a non-selective pure agonist at μ, δ and κ opioid receptors with a higher affinity for the μ receptor. Other mechanisms which may contribute to its analgesic effect are inhibition of neuronal reuptake of noradrenaline and enhancement of serotonin release.

Tramadol has an antitussive effect. In contrast to morphine, analgesic doses of tramadol over a wide range have no respiratory depressant effect. Also gastrointestinal motility is less affected. Effects on the cardiovascular system tend to be slight. The potency of tramadol is reported to be 1/10 (one tenth) to 1/6 (one sixth) that of morphine.

Paediatric population

Effects of enteral and parenteral administration of tramadol have been investigated in clinical trials involving more than 2000 paediatric patients ranging in age from neonate to 17 years of age. The indications for pain treatment studied in those trials included pain after surgery (mainly abdominal), after surgical tooth extractions, due to fractures, burns and traumas as well as other painful conditions likely to require analgesic treatment for at least 7 days.

At single doses of up to 2 mg/kg or multiple doses of up to 8 mg/kg per day (to a maximum of 400 mg per day) efficacy of tramadol was found to be superior to placebo, and superior or equal to paracetamol, nalbuphine, pethidine or low dose morphine. The conducted trials confirmed the efficacy of tramadol. The safety profile of tramadol was similar in adult and paediatric patients older than 1 year.

**5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

Absorption

More than 90% of tramadol is absorbed after oral administration. The mean absolute bioavailability is approximately 70 %, irrespective of the concomitant intake of food. The

difference between absorbed and non-metabolised available tramadol is probably due to the low first-pass effect. The first-pass effect after oral administration is a maximum of 30 %.

Distribution

Tramadol has a high tissue affinity (V d,ß = 203 + 40 l). It has a plasma protein binding of about 20 %.

Following a single oral dose administration of tramadol 100 mg as capsules or tablets to young healthy volunteers, plasma concentrations were detectable within approximately 15 to 45 minutes within a mean $C_{max}$ of 280 to 208 mcg/L and $T_{max}$ of 1.6 to 2h.

Tramadol passes the blood-brain and placental barriers. Very small amounts of the substance and its O-desmethyl derivative are found in the breast-milk (0.1 % and 0.02 % respectively of the applied dose).

Elimination

Elimination half-life t1/2,ß is approximately 6 h, irrespective of the mode of administration. In patients above 75 years of age it may be prolonged by a factor of approximately 1.4.

In humans tramadol is mainly metabolised by means of N- and O-demethylation and conjugation of the O-demethylation products with glucuronic acid. Only O-desmethyltramadol is pharmacologically active. There are considerable interindividual quantitative differences between the other metabolites. So far, eleven metabolites have been found in the urine. Animal experiments have shown that O-desmethyltramadol is more potent than the parent substance by the factor 2 - 4. Its half-life t1/2,ß (6 healthy volunteers) is 7.9 h (range 5.4 - 9.6 h) and is approximately that of tramadol.

**5.3 Preclinical safety data**
Not available

**6. Pharmaceutical particulars**
**6.1 List of excipients**

| |
|---|
| Microcrystalline Cellulose |
| Lactose |
| Crosscarmellose Sodium |
| Colloidal Sillicon Dioxide (aerosil) light |

**6.2 Incompatibilities**
Not Applicable

**6.3 Shelf life**
36 months.

**6.4 Special precautions for storage**
Store below 30ºC. Protect from light.

**6.5 Nature and contents of container**
1 x 10 alu pvc blister pack

**6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling**
None

**Manufacturer:**
RELAX BIOTECH PVT. LTD.