

Tramadol

How does it make you feel?

Although tramadol is not as strong as [heroin](#), it shares many of the same effects and both are addictive. It is prescribed as a painkiller, but it can make you feel:

- calm
- happy
- relaxed
- awake – it may stop you from sleeping
- sick – you may need to vomit
- dizzy
- tired and lethargic – you may feel like you have no energy
- constipated
- uninterested in food
- drowsy
- confused
- sweaty
- itchy
- moody and irritable

How does it make people behave?

Tramadol can make people feel drowsy or confused. People may look out of it or look like they're falling asleep.

Physical health risks

Although tramadol isn't as strong as some of the other opioid drugs (such as [heroin](#)), it can still cause some of the same problems and, like other opioid drugs, overdosing can kill.

- Tramadol can depress breathing and may be risky for people with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- Pregnant women should not use tramadol as it can be toxic to the developing foetus.
- If you have epilepsy you should only take tramadol with clear medical advice because of the known risks.

Mental health risks

- If you are on certain antidepressants you should only take tramadol with clear medical advice because of the known risks.

What is tramadol cut with?

Nothing harmful – so long as it's prescribed by a doctor.

Although most tramadol is made by pharmaceutical companies to a high standard, tramadol bought from a dealer or from the internet can sometimes be cut with other substances or be counterfeit (fake).

If you're not sure where the tablets have come from, there's no way of knowing what's inside them. Even testing kits may not find everything.

Can you get addicted?

Yes, tramadol is addictive.

Over time, tramadol can produce cravings and a psychological desire to keep on using.

Some people get addicted to tramadol after being prescribed it to treat a physical pain. They experience withdrawal symptoms after stopping to take it, so carry on taking it instead. So long as you take tramadol as prescribed by your doctor, this shouldn't happen.

- This is a Class C drug, which means it's illegal to have for yourself, give away or sell.
- Possession can get you up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both.
- Supplying someone else, even your friends, can get you up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both.