

Tramadol

Brand Name – Ultram, CG-315; CG-315E; tramadoli hydrochloridum; U-26225A; many trade names available.

USES OF THIS MEDICATION

Tramadol is used to control pain in both people and animals, and also sometimes as a cough suppressant.

SIDE EFFECTS

At high doses, Tramadol can cause your pet to be sleepy, much like most pain medications. There is a very large dosage range for Tramadol, so if your pet becomes too sleepy, we might be able to lower the dose.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS

Tramadol should not be used with other drugs that affect serotonin levels, including **Prozac, Paxil, Anipryl, Deprenyl, selegiline and isoniazid**. Theoretically, concurrent use of **SAMe (Denosyl)** with tramadol could also cause drug interactions. If given with **amitryptiline or clomipramine**, dosage may need to be reduced. In humans, tramadol has been rarely linked to **digoxin** toxicity, or increased activity of **warfarin** or **coumadin**.

CONCERNS AND CAUTIONS

Tramadol should not be given to animals who are allergic to it. Signs of allergic reaction might include hives, vomiting, or even collapse in severe cases. If you note any of these problems after giving Tramadol, see your veterinarian as soon as possible. Animals who are allergic to other morphine type drugs (opioids) tend to also be allergic to Tramadol.

Because tramadol has caused seizures in humans, it should be used with caution in animals with seizure disorders or those taking other drugs that may reduce the seizure threshold (like acepromazine). Tramadol can rarely cause restlessness or agitation. If these problems occur, please ask your veterinarian about reducing dose or discontinuing the drug.

Patients with impaired kidney or liver function may need dosage adjustments.

Tramadol should not be given to dogs or cats who are pregnant or nursing.

Tramadol can occasionally cause gastrointestinal upset (poor appetite, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea). If this occurs, please ask your veterinarian about reducing the dose or discontinuing the drug.

Approximately 10% of humans receiving the drug develop itching of the skin. This has not been reported in dogs or cats. However, if this happens with your pet, please contact your veterinarian about reducing the dose or discontinuing the drug.

This drug should probably be reduced gradually in animals that have received it chronically, as physical dependence has been reported in people.

Tramadol may be given with or without food. Keep out of reach of children.