RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of tramadol for the management of pain in adult patients?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of tramadol for pain in adult patients?

KEY FINDINGS

Four systematic reviews, 17 randomized controlled trials, seven non-randomized studies, and five evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of tramadol for the management of pain in adult patients.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 10), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), Pubmed, Medline (OVID) and Ebase (OVID) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, and non-randomized studies, and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2012 and October 16, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

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**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Adult patients requiring management of acute or chronic pain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Oral tramadol or tramadol combination products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>Other analgesics (e.g.: narcotics, NSAIDs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Effectiveness, safety, benefits and harms, guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines</td>
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</table>

**RESULTS**

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Four systematic reviews, 17 randomized controlled trials, seven non-randomized studies, and five evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of tramadol for the management of pain in adult patients. No relevant health technology assessments were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

**Health Technology Assessments**

No literature identified.

**Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses**


Randomized Controlled Trials

**Tramadol Alone**


**Tramadol Combination Therapy**


21. Park KS, Choi JJ, Kim WU, Min JK, Park SH, Cho CS. The efficacy of tramadol/acetaminophen combination tablets (Ultracet) as add-on and maintenance therapy in knee osteoarthritis pain inadequately controlled by nonsteroidal anti-

Non-Randomized Studies

Tramadol Alone


Tramadol Combination Therapy


Guidelines and Recommendations


Jan. [Cited 23 Oct 2014]. Summary available from: 
http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=47765&search=pain+and+tramadol
See: 15. Prescription of Opioids

https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg173/chapter/1-recommendations
See: 1.1.10 and 1.1.12


http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=45524
See: Tramadol

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review Articles


Additional References
