

Tramadol - what is your experience?

March/April 2008

Number of responses = 217

Questions:

1) When converting a patient from *oral* tramadol 100mg dose, what dose of *oral* morphine would you generally use? (one_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Oral morphine 10mg dose (i.e. a tramadol to morphine conversion ratio of 10:1)	95	44%
Oral morphine 20mg dose (i.e. a tramadol to morphine conversion ratio of 5:1)	88	41%
Other (please e-mail us at hq@palliativedrugs.com)	12	6%
No experience in this	26	12%

2) If you have converted patients from oral tramadol to oral morphine using a conversion ratio of 10:1 (e.g. oral tramadol 100mg is equivalent to oral morphine 10mg), have you experienced any problems with *underdosing*? (one_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
No	74	34%
Yes	33	15%
Do not use this conversion ratio	99	46%

3) If you have answered yes to question 2, please give an estimate of what proportion of patients this occurs in, e.g. 10%, 50%, 90% of patients (freetext)

There were 30 responses to this question. The following results are the estimated percentage of patients for which *underdosing* occurred using a conversion ratio of 10:1
 <10% of patients (2 responses)
 10-30% of patients (12 responses)
 50% of patients (12 responses)
 >50% of patients (4 responses)

In summary the estimated percentage of patients *underdosed* on a conversion ratio of 10:1 appears to be 10-50%.

4) If you have converted patients from oral tramadol to oral morphine using a conversion ratio of 5:1 (e.g. oral tramadol 100mg is equivalent to oral morphine 20mg), have you experienced any problems with *overdosing*? (one_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
No	70	32%
Yes	34	16%
Do not use this conversion ratio	88	41%

5) If you have answered yes to question 4, please give an estimate of what proportion of patients this occurs in, e.g. 10%, 50%, 90% of patients (freetext)

There were 35 responses to this question. The following results are the estimated percentage of patients for which *overdosing* occurred using a conversion ratio of 5:1

<10% of patients (4 responses)

10-30% of patients (22 responses)

50% of patients (5 responses)

>50% of patients (4 responses)

In summary, the estimated percentage of patients *overdosed* on a conversion ratio of 5:1 appears to be 10-30%.

6) In a palliative care setting, if you have commenced ondansetron in a patient receiving regular tramadol, have they experienced an impaired analgesic effect? (one_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
No	36	17%
Yes	1	0%
No experience of this combination of drugs	179	82%

7) Please add any other comments relating to your experience of using tramadol in palliative care. (freetext)

In summary, some of the key comments made were:

- the high incidence of side effects experienced with tramadol especially nausea, but also dizziness, confusion and severe constipation
- it is used rarely, more often initiated elsewhere
- a few people use an oral tramadol to oral morphine conversion ratio of 6–8:1 (e.g. oral tramadol 100mg is equivalent to oral morphine 12.5–16mg)