



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Misuse of tramadol within the context of poly drug use – an emerging concern?

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Why tramadol?



- Tramadol – opioid pain medication, used to treat **moderate to severe pain**, widely available in Europe, can be used in combination with paracetamol
- The EMCDDA's interest in **tramadol** was triggered by:
 - reports on adverse events, including deaths, reported to the EMCDDA already in 2013 by national experts (incl. DRD) but also data reported to EWS,
 - health and social implications, particularly in patients with a previous history of drug misuse, reported in the scientific literature,
 - In 2013 UN system called for *assessment of broader health and social implications associated with the non-medical use and abuse of tramadol.*

Tramadol project



Title: *Misuse of tramadol within the context of poly drug use – an emerging concern?*

Collaborators: French Drug Observatory (OFDT), and with the involvement of selected Member States (UK, SE, IE) and the EMA.

Components:

1. Technical report to be elaborated by the contractor (OFDT) with a comprehensive overview of tramadol pharmacology, misuse and risk behaviours and related harms, legal status, in the context of polydrug use. Based on in-depth data collection in France and three additional countries (such as UK, SE and IE).

2. European level data :

- **the EMCDDA** - responsible for collecting existing European level information, which is available through our reporting system or existing networks, for example: treatment demand data or data on fatal and non-fatal intoxications.
- **The EMA** - responsible for providing analysis based on the information from EudraVigilance, national competent authorities and additional sources such as prescribing databases available at the EMA.



Tramadol project



Timeline: data collection ongoing until end of 2017 (EMA and EMCDDA a contractor to deliver first analysis for France and for selected MSs in September. 2018 outputs subject to data availability and quality.

TDI data:

- Tramadol not listed on the drug categories in the TDI so when recorded it is reported under the category “other opioids”
- Fonte and workbooks (for 2014, 2015, 2016) and a request to the TDI experts for detailed information on secondary drugs and additional information on the profile of tramadol-related clients,
- Reports of tramadol misuse among clients entering treatment are reported in some countries from the northern and central part of Europe (Poland, Latvia, Finland, Belgium, United Kingdom) and by two southern European countries (Spain and Romania),
- an increasing number of countries are reporting the misuse of opioids other than heroin, including tramadol but numbers are low. However underreporting needs to be taken into account.




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