

Tramacet®

Supporting resources available on the PrescQIPP website:



Bulletin



Data pack

<http://www.prescqipp.info/-tramacet/viewcategory/180>

Introduction

Tramacet features as No.15 in the PrescQIPP DROP-List.¹ The DROP-List is an accumulation of medicines that are regarded as low priority, poor value for money or medicines for which there are safer alternatives.

Recommendations

- Commence new patients requiring analgesia on paracetamol taken on a regular basis. Those requiring a weak opioid analgesic can have codeine added to their paracetamol.
- Review all patients on Tramacet® or its generic equivalent for suitability for switching to paracetamol alone or paracetamol with codeine.
- Switch all suitable patients to paracetamol alone or paracetamol and codeine. As with all switches, these should be tailored to the individual patient.

Costs and savings

Tramacet® switch	Minimum saving per 28 days	Annual switch savings per 100,000 patients per year across PrescQIPP membership
Switch from Tramacet® to paracetamol 500mg 2 QDS	£29.98	£4,228
Switch from Tramacet® to codeine 30mg 2 QDS	£24.94	£3,424
Switch from Tramacet® to paracetamol 500mg tablets (1g QDS) + codeine 30mg tablets (30mg-60mg prn up to max of 240mg daily)	£18.78	£2,442

In the PrescQIPP membership area over £960,000 is spent on Tramacet® and its generic equivalent over the course of a year. Switching to paracetamol alone at its optimal dose

could save up to £779,169 across the PrescQIPP membership.

Supporting evidence

- Tramacet® contains tramadol 37.5mg and 325mg of paracetamol and is licensed for use in moderate to severe pain.³ However, it has been found to have similar efficacy to ibuprofen 400mg for acute pain and co-codamol 30/300mg in chronic pain.⁴
- There is no evidence that Tramacet® is more effective or safer than paracetamol 500mg and codeine 30mg (either as individual drugs or combined as co-codamol 30/500).⁴
- Tramacet® costs substantially more than other drugs which would be considered at step two of the WHO analgesic ladder drugs without evidence of improved efficacy or safety.⁴
- The increased number of reports of misuse and harms associated with tramadol, and the increase in the number of tramadol related deaths, has led to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs advising that tramadol be controlled as a class C substance and listed as a schedule III controlled drug.⁵

References

1. PrescQIPP DROP-List, January 2012.
<http://www.prescqipp.info/resources/viewcategory/171-drop-list>
2. PrescQIPP Subscriber Prescribing Data taken from ePACT September to November 2013.
3. Summary Of Product Characteristics - Tramacet 37.5mg/ 325mg film-coated tablets, last updated: 07/05/2010. Accessed: 16/10/13.
<http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/22196/SPC/Tramacet+37.5+mg++325+mg+film-coated+tablets/>
4. NPC pain overview data focused commentary: Use of opioids. 2010. Accessed 16/10/13.
http://www.npc.nhs.uk/therapeutics/pain/overview/resources/dfc_pain_overview.pdf
5. Advisory Council On The Misuse Of Drugs (ACMD) Consideration Of Tramadol. February 2013. Accessed 18/10/13.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/144116/advice-tramadol.pdf