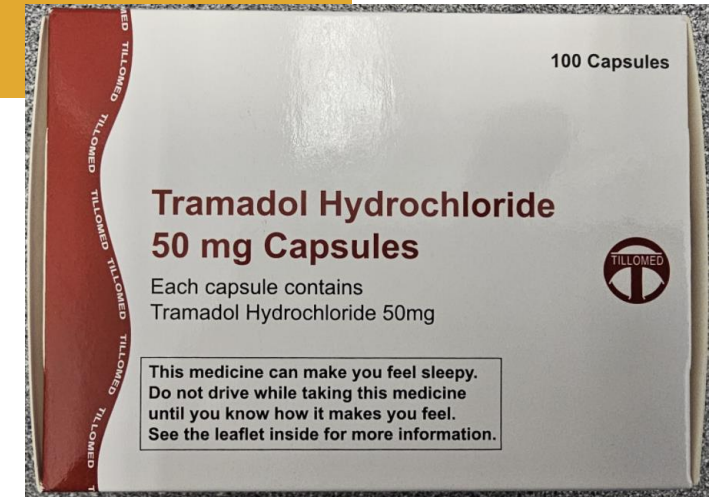
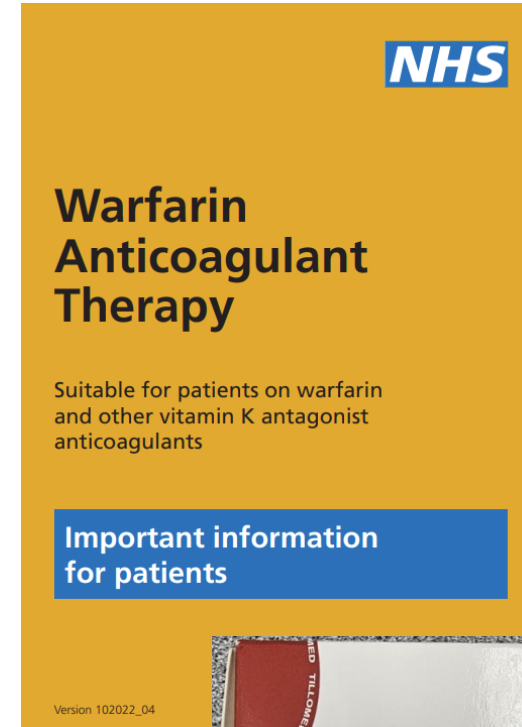




**A patient is on a coumarin anticoagulant e.g. warfarin, acenocoumarol or phenindione.**

**Question:  
Is it ok to have tramadol?**





# Answer: **Red flag** for a potentially fatal interaction

**Warning based on a coroner's report where a patient died from intracranial bleeding (INR 11) after concurrent treatment with tramadol and warfarin.**

- Warfarin has a narrow therapeutic index. Exercise caution when co-administering with other medicines.
- Consider giving an alternative opioid, such as codeine, if appropriate or alternative treatment.
- Avoid when required use of tramadol.
- Tramadol can increase the International Normalised Ratio (INR). Monitor the INR more frequently if tramadol is started or stopped and adjust the warfarin dose as needed.
- Ensure patient is aware of an increased risk of major bruising and bleeding which could be life-threatening and to seek help urgently. When and where to seek help.
- Co-administration of tramadol also carries risks with the other coumarin anticoagulants, e.g. acencoumarol and phenindione.

Further information:

1. [Warfarin: be alert to the risk of drug interactions with tramadol](#)
2. [Warning over warfarin and tramadol interaction. MEDSCAPE UK](#)
3. [Susan Gladstone: Prevention of future deaths report - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#)
4. [MedicinesComplete — Interactions Checker Stockley's Interactions Checker](#)

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Message correct at time of publication