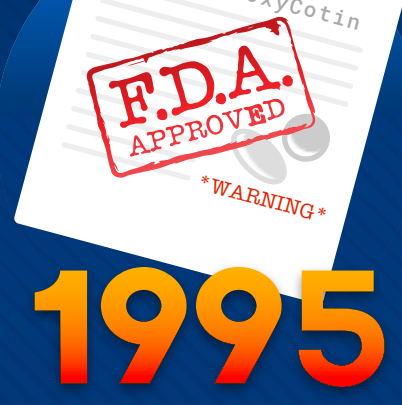


TRAMADOL

T · I · M · E · L · I · N · E

FROM SAFEST PAIN KILLER TO MAJOR HEALTH CONCERN



1995

1995

The FDA approves tramadol under the name "Ultram" as a non-controlled painkiller, but warns about abuse potential.^{1,3}



1996

1996

Cases of tramadol abuse are noted and the FDA revises the product label to include warnings about the potential for abuse.⁶



1999

1999

Overdoses on opioid painkillers, especially OxyContin, begin to rise dramatically.³



2005

2005

Emergency department visits related to non-medical tramadol use begin to rise dramatically (over 250% from 2005 to 2011).²



2008 through 2013

2008 - 2013

Prescriptions for tramadol increase by 20 million.²

SAFE USE

2009

2009

The FDA launches the Safe Use Initiative to decrease preventable damage caused by medications, such as opioids.³

SEROTONIN SYNDROME

2009

2009

The FDA changes the product label for tramadol HCl to advise consumers of the risk of life-threatening serotonin syndrome.⁵

3 MILLION TRAMADOL USERS

2012

2012

SAMHSA estimates over 3 million people over the age of 12 have abused tramadol in their lifetime.²

2013 through 2014

2013 - 2014

The greatest increase in substance overdoses involved synthetic opioids, such as tramadol and Fentanyl.⁴

SCHEDULE IV SUBSTANCE

2014

2014

Tramadol is categorized as a schedule IV controlled substance by the DEA.²

Sources

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