

# Drug interaction identified for ondansetron, tramadol

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(HealthDay)—In the early postoperative period, ondansetron is associated with increased requirements for tramadol consumption, according to a review and meta-analysis published online Dec. 10 in *Anaesthesia*.

A.J. Stevens, from Flinders University in Bedford Park, Australia, and colleagues conducted a [systematic review](#) and [meta-analysis](#) to examine the presence of a drug interaction between tramadol and ondansetron that reduces the efficacy of tramadol. The authors reviewed data from six studies involving 340 participants. The studies compared the cumulative dose of tramadol administered by patient-controlled analgesia within the first 24 hours after surgery between subjects receiving tramadol alone and those receiving tramadol with ondansetron.

The researchers found that patients receiving ondansetron had an

increased requirement for tramadol. At four, eight, 12, and 24 hours postoperatively, the standardized mean difference in tramadol, expressed in terms of standard deviations, was 1.03 (P

"The results support the presence of a [drug interaction](#) between tramadol and [ondansetron](#) in the early postoperative period that potentially decreases the effectiveness of tramadol," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)

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