

PROGRAF® 0.5 mg, 1 mg and 5 mg Hard Capsules

Tacrolimus monohydrate

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

The product is known by the name above but will be referred to as Prograf throughout the rest of this leaflet.

In this leaflet:

1. What Prograf is and what it is used for
2. Before you take Prograf
3. How to take Prograf
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Prograf
6. Further Information

1. WHAT PROGRAF IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Prograf belongs to a group of medicines called immunosuppressants. Following your organ transplant (e.g. liver, kidney, heart), your body's immune system will try to reject the new organ.

Prograf is used to control your body's immune response enabling your body to accept the transplanted organ.

Prograf is often used in combination with other medicines that also suppress the immune system.

You may also be given Prograf for an ongoing rejection of your transplanted liver, kidney, heart or other organ or if any previous treatment you were taking was unable to control this immune response after your transplantation.

2. BEFORE YOU TAKE PROGRAF

Do not take Prograf

- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to tacrolimus or any of the other ingredients of Prograf.
- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to any antibiotic belonging to the subgroup of macrolide antibiotics (e.g. erythromycin, clarithromycin, josamycin).

Take special care with Prograf

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Prograf

- You will need to take Prograf every day as long as you need immunosuppression to prevent rejection of your transplanted organ. You should keep in regular contact with your doctor.
- Whilst you are taking Prograf your doctor may want to carry out a number of tests (including blood, urine, heart function, visual and neurological tests) from time to time. This is quite normal and will help your doctor to decide on the most appropriate dose of Prograf for you.

- Please avoid taking any herbal remedies, e.g. St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum) or any other herbal products as this may affect the effectiveness and the dose of Prograf that you need to receive. If in doubt please consult your doctor prior to taking any herbal products or remedies.
- If you have liver problems or have had a disease which may have affected your liver, please tell your doctor as this may affect the dose of Prograf that you receive.
- If you feel strong abdominal pain accompanied or not with other symptoms, such as chills, fever, nausea or vomiting.
- If you have diarrhoea for more than one day, please tell your doctor, because it might be necessary to adapt the dose of Prograf that you receive.
- If you have an alteration of the electrical activity of your heart called "QT prolongation".

- Limit your exposure to sunlight and UV light whilst taking Prograf by wearing appropriate protective clothing and using a sunscreen with a high sun protection factor. This is because of the potential risk of malignant skin changes with immunosuppressive therapy.
- If you need to have an anaesthesia, please inform your doctor beforehand. Your doctor will advise you on the best course of action.

- Patients treated with Prograf have been reported to have an increased risk of developing lymphoproliferative disorders. Ask your doctor for specific advice on these disorders.

Taking other medicines, herbal or dietary supplements

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription and herbal remedies.

Prograf must not be taken with ciclosporin.

Prograf blood levels can be affected by other medicines you take, and blood levels of other medicines can be affected by taking Prograf which may require interruption, an increase or a decrease in Prograf dose. In particular, you should tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken medicines with active substances like:

- Antifungal medicines and antibiotics (particularly so-called macrolide antibiotics) used to treat infections e.g. ketoconazole, fluconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, clotrimazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin, josamycin, and rifampicin.
- HIV protease inhibitors (e.g. ritonavir, nelfinavir, saquinavir), used to treat HIV infection.
- HCV protease inhibitors (e.g. telaprevir, boceprevir), used to treat hepatitis C infection.
- Medicines for stomach ulcer and acid reflux (e.g. omeprazole, lansoprazole or cimetidine).
- Antiemetics, used to treat nausea and vomiting (e.g. metoclopramide).
- Magnesium-aluminium hydroxide (antacid), used to treat heartburn.
- Hormone treatments with ethinylestradiol (e.g. the oral contraceptive pill) or danazol.
- Medicines for high blood pressure or heart problems such as nifedipine, nicardipine, diltiazem and verapamil.
- Anti-arrhythmic medicines (amiodarone) used to control arrhythmia (uneven beating of the heart).
- Medicines known as "statins" used to treat elevated cholesterol and triglycerides.
- The anti-epileptic medicines phenytoin or phenobarbital.
- The corticosteroids prednisolone and methylprednisolone.
- The anti-depressant nefazodone.
- Herbal preparations containing St. John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum) or extracts of Schisandra sphenanthera.

Tell your doctor if you are taking or need to take ibuprofen, amphotericin B, or antivirals (e.g. aciclovir). These may worsen kidney or nervous system problems when taken together with Prograf.

Your doctor also needs to know if you are taking potassium supplements or potassium-sparing diuretics (e.g. amiloride, triamterene, or spironolactone), certain pain killers (so-called NSAIDs, e.g. ibuprofen), anticoagulants, or oral medication for diabetic treatment, while you take Prograf.

If you need to have any vaccinations, please inform your doctor beforehand.

Taking Prograf with food and drink

You should generally take Prograf on an empty stomach or at least 1 hour before or 2 to 3 hours after a meal. Grapefruit and grapefruit juice should be avoided while taking Prograf.

Pregnancy and breast feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Prograf is excreted into breast milk. Therefore you should not breast-feed whilst receiving Prograf.

Please ask your doctor, healthcare provider or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Driving and using machines

Do not drive or use any tools or machines if you feel dizzy or sleepy, or have problems seeing clearly after taking Prograf. These effects are more frequently observed if Prograf is taken in conjunction with alcohol use.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Prograf

Prograf contains lactose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

3. HOW TO TAKE PROGRAF

Always take Prograf exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Make sure that you receive the same tacrolimus medicine every time you collect your prescription, unless your transplant specialist has agreed to change to a different tacrolimus medicine.

This medicine should be taken twice a day. If the appearance of this medicine is not the same as usual, or if dosage instructions have changed, speak to your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible to make sure that you have the right medicine.

The starting dose to prevent the rejection of your transplanted organ will be determined by your doctor calculated according to your body weight. Initial doses just after transplantation will generally be in the range of 0.075 - 0.30 mg per kg body weight per day depending on the transplanted organ.

Your dose depends on your general condition and on which other immunosuppressive medication you are taking. Regular blood tests by your doctor will be required to define the correct dose and to adjust the dose from time to time. Your doctor will usually reduce your Prograf dose once your condition has stabilised. Your doctor will tell you exactly how many capsules to take and how often.

Prograf is taken orally twice daily, usually in the morning and evening. You should generally take Prograf on an empty stomach or at least 1 hour before or 2 to 3 hours after the meal.

The capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water.

Take the capsules immediately following removal from the bottle. Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice while taking Prograf.

If you take more Prograf than you should

If you have accidentally taken too much Prograf see your doctor or contact your nearest hospital emergency department immediately.

If you forget to take Prograf

Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses. If you have forgotten to take your Prograf capsules, wait until it is time for the next dose, and then continue as before.

If you stop taking Prograf

Stopping your treatment with Prograf may increase the risk of rejection of your transplanted organ. Do not stop your treatment unless your doctor tells you to do so.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor, healthcare provider or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Prograf can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Prograf reduces your body's own defence mechanism to stop you rejecting your transplanted organ. Consequently, your body will not be as good as usual at fighting infections. So if you are taking Prograf you may therefore catch more infections than usual such as infections of the skin, mouth, stomach and intestines, lungs and urinary tract.

Severe side effects may occur, including the ones listed below. Tell your doctor immediately if you have or suspect you may have any of the following serious side effects:

- Opportunistic infections (bacterial, fungal, viral and protozoal): prolonged diarrhea, fever and sore throat.
- Benign and malignant tumours have been reported following treatment as a result of immunosuppression.
- Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) a condition characterised by fever and bruising under the skin that may appear as red pinpoint dots, with or without unexplained extreme tiredness, confusion, yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), with symptoms of acute renal failure (low or no urine output).
- Cases of pure red cell aplasia (a very severe reduction in red blood cell counts) and haemolytic anaemia (decreased number of red blood cells due to abnormal breakdown accompanied with tiredness) have been reported. You may have no symptoms or depending on the severity of the condition, you may feel: fatigue, apathy, abnormal paleness of the skin (pallor), shortness of breath, dizziness, headache, chest pain and coldness in hands and feet.
- Cases of agranulocytosis (a severely lowered number of white blood cells accompanied with ulcers in the mouth, fever and infection(s)). You may have no symptoms or you may feel sudden fever, rigors and sore throat.
- Allergic and anaphylactic reactions with the following symptoms: a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of hands, feet, ankle, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing) and you may feel you are going to faint.
- Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES): headache, altered mental status, seizures, and visual disturbances.
- Torsades de Pointes: change in the heart frequency that can be accompanied or not by symptoms, such as chest pain (angina), faint, vertigo or nausea, palpitations (feeling the heartbeat) and difficulty breathing.
- Gastrointestinal perforation: strong abdominal pain accompanied or not with other symptoms, such as chills, fever, nausea or vomiting.
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome: unexplained widespread skin pain, facial swelling, serious illness with blistering of skin, mouth, eyes and genitals, hives, tongue swelling, red or purple skin rash that spreads, skin shedding.
- Toxic epidermal necrolysis: erosion and blistering of skin or mucous membranes, red swollen skin that can detach in large parts of the body.
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a condition with the following symptoms: low or no urine output (acute renal failure), extreme tiredness, yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice) and abnormal bruising or bleeding and signs of infection.
- Insufficient function of your transplanted organ.

The side effects listed below may also occur after receiving Prograf:

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Increased blood sugar, diabetes mellitus, increased potassium in the blood.
- Difficulty in sleeping.
- Trembling, headache.
- Increased blood pressure.
- Diarrhoea, nausea.

• Kidney problems.

• Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Reduced magnesium, phosphate, potassium, calcium or sodium in the blood, fluid overload, increased uric acid or lipids in the blood, decreased appetite, increased acidity of the blood, other changes in the blood salts.
- Anxiety symptoms, confusion and disorientation, depression, mood changes, nightmare, hallucination, mental disorders.
- Fits, disturbances in consciousness, tingling and numbness (sometimes painful) in the hands and feet, dizziness, impaired writing ability, nervous system disorders.
- Blurred vision, increased sensitivity to light, eye disorders.
- Ringing sound in your ears.
- Reduced blood flow in the heart vessels, faster heartbeat.
- Bleeding, partial or complete blocking of blood vessels, reduced blood pressure.
- Pain in joints, limbs or back, muscle spasms.
- Inflammations or ulcers causing abdominal pain or diarrhoea, bleeds in the stomach, inflammations or ulcers in the mouth, collection of fluid in the belly, vomiting, abdominal pains, indigestion, constipation, flatulence, bloating, loose stools, stomach problems.
- Changes in liver enzymes and function, yellowing of the skin due to liver problems, liver tissue damage and inflammation of the liver.
- Itching, rash, hair loss, acne, increased sweating.
- Insufficient function of the kidneys, reduced production of urine, impaired or painful urination.
- General weakness, fever, collection of fluid in your body, pain and discomfort, increase of the enzyme alkaline phosphatase in your blood, weight gain, feeling of temperature disturbed.

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Changes in blood clotting, reduction in all blood cell counts.
- Dehydration, reduced protein or sugar in the blood, increased phosphate in the blood.
- Coma, bleeding in the brain, stroke, paralysis, brain disorder, speech and language abnormalities, memory problems.
- Blurring of the vision due to abnormality in the lens of the eye.
- Impaired hearing.
- Irregular heartbeat, stop of heartbeat, reduced performance of your heart, disorder of the heart muscle, enlargement of the heart muscle, stronger heartbeat, abnormal ECG, heart rate and pulse abnormal.
- Blood clot in a vein of a limb, shock.
- Difficulties in breathing, respiratory tract disorders, asthma.
- Obstruction of the gut, increased blood level of the enzyme amylase, reflux of stomach content in your throat, delayed emptying of the stomach.
- Dermatitis, burning sensation in the sunlight.
- Joint disorders.
- Inability to urinate, painful menstruation and abnormal menstrual bleeding.
- Failure of some organs, influenza like illness, increased sensitivity to heat and cold, feeling of pressure on your chest, jittery or abnormal feeling, increase of the enzyme lactate dehydrogenase in your blood, weight loss.

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Small bleeds in your skin due to blood clots.
- Increased muscle stiffness.
- Blindness.
- Deafness.
- Collection of fluid around the heart.
- Acute breathlessness.
- Cyst formation in your pancreas.
- Problems with blood flow in the liver.
- Increased hairiness.
- Thirst, fall, feeling of tightness in your chest, decreased mobility, ulcer.

Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):

- Muscular weakness.
- Echocardiogram abnormal.
- Liver failure, narrowing of the bile vessel.
- Painful urination with blood in the urine.
- Increase of fat tissue.

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

5. HOW TO STORE PROGRAF

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not store above 30°C. Store in a dry place.

Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Hard capsules should be taken immediately following removal from the bottle.

Do not use Prograf after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and bottle after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not use Prograf if you notice visible signs of deterioration.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist on how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Prograf contains

Prograf 0.5 mg hard capsules
The active substance is tacrolimus. Each capsule contains 0.5 mg of tacrolimus as tacrolimus monohydrate.

The other ingredients are:

- Capsule content: Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, croscarmellose sodium.

Prograf 1 mg hard capsules

The active substance is tacrolimus. Each capsule contains 1 mg of tacrolimus as tacrolimus monohydrate.

The other ingredients are:

- Capsule content: Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, croscarmellose sodium.

Prograf 5 mg hard capsules

The active substance is tacrolimus. Each capsule contains 5 mg of tacrolimus as tacrolimus monohydrate.

The other ingredients are:

- Capsule content: Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, croscarmellose sodium.

What Prograf looks like and content of the pack

Prograf 0.5 mg hard capsules

Opaque light yellow capsules imprinted in red with "0.5 mg" and "[I] 607", containing white powder.

Prograf 1 mg hard capsules

Opaque white capsules imprinted in red with "1 mg" and "[I] 617", containing white powder.

Prograf 5 mg hard capsules

Opaque greyish red capsules imprinted in white with "5 mg" and "[I] 657", containing white powder.

They are supplied in HDPE type of bottle.

Pack size of Prograf 0.5 mg, 1 mg and 5 mg: 100 capsules.

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Council of Arab Health Ministers, Union of Arab Pharmacists

THIS IS A MEDICATION

- A medication is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous.
- Follow the doctor's prescription strictly, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medication.
- The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.



Keep medication out of the reach of children
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