



More information is available for this medicine in the form of Consumer Medicines Information (CMI). CMIs are available from hospitals, pharmacies and medical practices and from the Therapeutic Goods Administration website ([www.ebs.tga.gov.au](http://www.ebs.tga.gov.au)). The CMI contains important information about your medicine and must be read in conjunction with this leaflet.

## Tacrolimus Immunosuppressant

Medication Name	Strength(s)
Tacrolimus	<b>Immediate release capsules:</b>  0.5mg  1mg  5mg  0.5mg  1mg 500microgram      1mg      5mg
Prograf Prograf XL (controlled re lease)	<b>Controlled release capsules:</b>  0.5mg  1mg  5mg  0.5mg  1mg  5mg 500microgram      1mg      5mg

### What is tacrolimus used for?

- Tacrolimus is an immunosuppressive agent that prevents graft rejection following kidney, liver, lung or heart transplantation.

### What does tacrolimus do?

- Immunosuppressants reduce the body's immune system to prevent your body from rejecting an organ transplant.

### How should I take tacrolimus?

- Immediate release capsules: take TWICE a day at the same time every day.
- Controlled release capsules: take ONCE daily at the same time every day.
- Although it is best to take this medicine on an EMPTY STOMACH, it is important to always take the capsules at the same times each day and in the same way in relation to food (always either with food or always on an empty stomach).
- Capsules should be SWALLOWED WHOLE with plenty of water. Do not crush or chew the capsules.

*Please turn leaflet over as there may be more information on the other side.*

*Make sure that your doctor, pharmacist, dentist and other health professionals know that you are taking this medicine. Please check all medications including herbal and 'over-the-counter' medication(s) with your doctor before taking to avoid unnecessary complications. The information in this leaflet does not replace the advice of your doctor or pharmacist. If you require more information, speak to your healthcare professional. Approved by Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Pharmacy. Information current at July 2019. © Department of Health 2015 For more information contact Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (08) 6457 3333.*

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## **What are the possible side effects?**

### **Not all side effects are listed – ask your health professional for more information**

- Nausea, diarrhoea, insomnia, headache, ringing in the ears, blurred vision, tiredness, rash, joint pains and muscle cramps.
- This medication may affect mental alertness, and/or coordination. If affected, do not drive a vehicle or operate machinery.
- This medication can cause your skin to be extra sensitive to sunlight. To prevent sunburn use SPF 30+ sunscreen and protective clothing.

## **Important information**

- Do not stop taking this medication abruptly, unless advised by the doctor.
- Do not consume grapefruit juice as this can adversely affect drug levels (levels of tacrolimus in your body).
- This medication interacts with many other medications. Check with your doctor/pharmacist/nurse prior to taking any new medications, including complementary or herbal medications (especially St. John's wort).
- **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY:**
  - If you develop symptoms of infection (e.g. temperature >38 degrees, sore throat, severe headache, mouth ulcers and muscle aches)
  - If you experience constant "flu-like" symptoms (chills, sore throat, aching joints, or other signs of infection)
  - If new lumps or moles develop, or existing moles change
  - Unusual / unexplained bleeding or bruising
  - Signs of an increased blood sugar level (thirst, dry mouth, urinating often, blurred vision, and fatigue)
- The use of live vaccines should be avoided during treatment with tacrolimus.
- You will need to have regular blood tests while you are taking this medication.
  - After having your blood test early in the morning, take your tacrolimus as soon as possible afterwards.
- You will be notified by your doctor if you need to change your dose.
- Use capsules within 12 months of opening the aluminium wrapper (or before the expiry date, whichever occurs first).

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