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2. Prograf

Prograf

Generic name: [tacrolimus](#) (oral/injection) [*ta-KROE-li-mus*]**Drug class:** [Calcineurin inhibitors](#)Medically reviewed by [Judith Stewart, BPharm](#). Last updated on Aug 21, 2024.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Prograf?

Prograf weakens your body's immune system, to help keep it from "rejecting" a transplanted organ such as a kidney. Organ rejection happens when the immune system treats the new organ as an invader and attacks it.

Prograf is a prescription medicine and is used together with other medicines to prevent your body from rejecting a [heart](#), [liver](#), [lung](#), or kidney transplant.

Prograf is supplied as oral capsules, granules for oral suspension, and as an injection for intravenous use.

Prograf capsules and oral granules are immediate-release medicines and they are not the same as tacrolimus extended-release tablets or tacrolimus extended-release capsules. Your healthcare provider should decide what medicine is right for you.

Warnings

Prograf may increase your risk of developing a serious infection, lymphoma, or other cancers. Talk with your doctor about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

Call your doctor right away if you have any signs of infection such as fever, chills, flu symptoms, cough, sweating, painful skin sores, skin warmth or redness, or muscle aches.

You will need regular medical tests to be sure Prograf is not causing harmful effects. Do not miss any follow up visits to your doctor for blood or urine tests. Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections.

Call your doctor right away if you have symptoms of a serious brain infection, such as a change in your mental state, problems with speech or walking, or decreased vision. These symptoms may start gradually and get worse quickly.

Prograf can harm your kidneys, and this effect is increased when you also use certain other medicines harmful to the kidneys. Before using this medicine, tell your doctor about all other medicines you use. Many other drugs (including some over-the-counter medicines) can be harmful to the kidneys.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Prograf if you are allergic to tacrolimus or hydrogenated [castor oil](#), or if you have used [cyclosporine](#) (Neoral, Sandimmune, Gengraf) within the past 24 hours.

Using Prograf may increase your risk of developing serious infections or certain types of cancer, such as lymphoma or skin cancer. Your risk may be higher if you are treated over long periods of time with drugs that weaken the immune system. Ask your doctor about this risk and about symptoms to watch for.

Some people taking Prograf after a kidney transplant have developed diabetes. This effect has been seen most commonly in people who are Hispanic or African-American.

To make sure Prograf is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have::

- problems with your liver, kidney, or heart that are not related to your transplant;
- [long QT syndrome](#) (in you or a family member); or
- if you are scheduled to receive a vaccine;

Tell your doctor if you plan to get pregnant. Tacrolimus may harm an unborn baby, and can worsen conditions such as diabetes or [high blood pressure](#) in the mother. Use effective birth control before and during treatment with Prograf.

If you are pregnant, your name may be listed on a pregnancy registry to track the effects of tacrolimus on the baby.

If you are a man, use birth control before and during treatment with Prograf if your sex partner is able to get pregnant.

Pregnancy may be less likely to occur while the mother or the father is using this medicine. Both men and women should still use birth control to prevent pregnancy because the medicine can harm an unborn baby.

Ask a doctor if it is safe to breastfeed while using this medicine.

 [Prograf pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take Prograf?

Take Prograf exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose.

You may receive an injection of Prograf shortly after your transplant. The injection is given until you are ready to take the pill form of tacrolimus.

Take Prograf at the same time each day, with a full glass of water.

Swallow the capsule whole and do not crush, chew, break, or open it.

Mix Prograf oral granules with water right before you take them. Do not save this mixture for later use. Do not get the powder or mixture on your skin or in your eyes. If this happens, wash your skin with soap and water or rinse your eyes with water.

You may take [Prograf](#) with or without food, but take it the same way each time.

Your dose needs may change if you switch to a different brand, strength, or form of this medicine. **All forms of tacrolimus are not equivalent and may not have the same dose or schedule.** Avoid medication errors by using only

the form and strength your doctor prescribes.

You will need frequent medical tests, and your blood pressure will need to be checked often.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Prograf dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose.

Do not take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking Prograf?

Avoid receiving a "live" vaccine. The vaccine may not work as well while you are using Prograf. Live vaccines include measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), rotavirus, typhoid, yellow fever, varicella (chickenpox), and zoster ([shingles](#)).

Grapefruit may interact with tacrolimus and cause side effects. Avoid consuming grapefruit products.

Prograf side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Prograf**: [hives](#); difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

You may get infections more easily, even serious or fatal infections. **Call your doctor right away if you have signs of infection such as:** fever, chills, flu symptoms, cough, sweating, painful skin sores, skin warmth or redness, or muscle aches.

Also call your doctor at once if you have:

- general ill feeling, pain or swelling near your transplanted organ;
- headaches, vision changes, pounding in your neck or ears;
- confusion, behavior changes;
- tremors, a seizure;
- fast or pounding heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, shortness of breath, and sudden [dizziness](#) (like you might pass out);
- chest pain, cough, trouble breathing (even while lying down);
- **high blood sugar** - increased thirst, increased urination, hunger, fruity breath odor, [nausea](#), loss of appetite, drowsiness, confusion;
- **high potassium level** - nausea, weakness, chest pain, irregular heartbeats, loss of movement;

- **kidney problems** - swelling, urinating less, feeling tired or short of breath;
- **low magnesium or phosphate** - bone pain, jerky muscle movements, muscle weakness or limp feeling, slow reflexes; or
- **low blood cell counts** - fever, flu symptoms, tiredness, pale skin, cold hands and feet.

Common Prograf side effects may include:

- low blood cell counts, infections;
- fever;
- nausea, [diarrhea](#), [constipation](#), stomach pain;
- weakness, pain;
- fluid around your heart;
- tremors;
- [headache](#);
- cough, breathing problems;
- high blood sugar, high potassium levels, [high cholesterol](#) or triglycerides levels;
- low levels of magnesium or phosphate;
- numbness or tingling in your hands and feet;
- sleep problems ([insomnia](#)); or
- swelling in your hands, legs, ankles, or feet.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Prograf side effects](#) (more detail)

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What other drugs will affect Prograf?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Tacrolimus can harm your kidneys, especially if you also use certain medicines for infections, cancer, [osteoporosis](#), organ transplant rejection, bowel disorders, high blood pressure, or pain or arthritis (including [Advil](#), [Motrin](#), and [Aleve](#)).

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines. Many drugs can interact with tacrolimus, especially:

- [amiodarone](#);
- [cisplatin](#);
- [cyclosporine](#);
- [sirolimus](#);
- [antibiotic](#), antifungal, or antiviral medicines; or
- heart or blood pressure medication, such as a diuretic or "water pill."

This list is not complete and many other drugs may interact with tacrolimus. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

 [Prograf drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Prograf interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Prograf

+

Enter a drug name

Add

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Patient resources

- [Prograf \(Tacrolimus Intravenous\) advanced reading](#)
- [Prograf \(Tacrolimus Oral\) \(Advanced Reading\)](#)

Other brands

[Envarsus XR](#), [Astagraf XL](#), [Hecoria](#)

Professional resources

- [Prograf prescribing information](#)
- [Tacrolimus \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Envarsus XR](#), [Astagraf XL](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Organ Transplant, Rejection Reversal](#)
- [Organ Transplant, Rejection Prophylaxis](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Prograf medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*



N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
10+ years FDA approved 1994



User Reviews & Ratings

8.1 / 10

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Images

[Prograf 1 mg \(1 mg f 617\)](#)



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