

## Tacrolimus (Sublingual) for Renal Transplant Patients

<b>Caution</b>	<b>Wear a mask and powder free nitrile gloves when handling and opening capsules</b>
<b>Indication</b>	If a patient is unable to swallow capsules orally, tacrolimus can be administered sublingually on the advice of the Renal team.
<b>Dose</b>	<p>The oral tacrolimus dose may need to be adjusted based on patient specific factors. Dose conversion ratios of 1:1 and 2:1 have been reported in the literature <sup>1,2</sup></p> <p><b>1:1 Conversion</b></p> <p><b>Prograf® 2mg BD PO = Prograf® 2mg BD Sublingually</b></p> <p><b>2:1 Conversion</b></p> <p><b>Prograf® 2mg BD PO = Prograf® 1mg BD Sublingually</b></p> <p>Please note Advagraf® (prolonged release tacrolimus) is not suitable for sublingual administration. The formulation should be first converted to immediate release tacrolimus (Prograf®) and then prescribed sublingually as above.</p>
<b>Administration and handling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When handling and opening capsules, powder free nitrile gloves and a mask should be worn</li> <li>Capsules should be opened and the contents placed <u>under the tongue and allowed to dissolve completely</u>.</li> <li>Avoid swallowing for 5-15 minutes.</li> <li>Avoid any oral intake for 15-30 minutes.</li> <li>Avoid mechanical suctioning for at least 30 minutes after administration.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The administration of tacrolimus sublingually renders the formulation an unlicensed medicine.</li> <li>Sublingual administration should only be considered for short term use on the advice of the renal team.</li> <li>Switching between tacrolimus brands and routes of administration requires careful supervision and therapeutic monitoring by an appropriate specialist.</li> <li>Dosing must be individualized, taking into consideration concomitant interacting medications, and adjusted to target levels based on therapeutic drug monitoring.</li> <li>Please contact the pharmacy department if further information is required.</li> </ul>

### References:

- Up to date - [www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com). Accessed on: 06/04/23
- Renal Drug Database <https://renaldrugdatabase.com/tacrolimus> Accessed on 06/04/23

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*This information has been summarised to act as a guide for those administering IV medication. The monograph should be used in conjunction with the drug data sheet and BNF for information on dose, adverse effects, cautions and contra-indications. Further information is available from Pharmacy on 22146 or 22542*