

# TACROLIMUS

Dear @Name@,

Your healthcare team has discussed the following subject with you: tacrolimus. The brand name is Prograf. Here is some additional information. Let us know if you have any questions regarding this information.

**How it works:** This medication belongs to a class of drugs called immunomodulators. It helps to reduce irritation and swelling (inflammation) in the intestines. It also decreases the long-term need for steroids. For that reason, it is sometimes referred to as a "steroid-sparing" drug. In some cases, this medication is used by itself. In other cases, this medication is used together with another medication to achieve better and long-term results.

**How it is taken:** Taken as a pill.

**Common side effects:** Infrequently reported side effects include decreased kidney function, hepatitis, infections, diabetes, increased cholesterol, sleep problems, headache, mild tremors, seizure, high blood pressure, swollen gums, tingling of the fingers and feet, and increased facial hair.

**Special considerations:** There is a small increase in the risk of lymphoma (a cancer of the lymph nodes). Women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant should talk to their healthcare team before taking this medication.

**Monitoring:** Blood tests should be performed frequently to check for medication effects on the kidneys, bone marrow, and liver.

**Points to remember:** Before taking this medication, let your doctor know about other medical conditions that you may have or other medications (even over-the-counter medications or complementary therapies) you may be taking.

**Other tips:** The best way to control your disease is by taking your medication as directed. Even when you do not have any symptoms, it is very important to continue taking your medication to prevent your disease from becoming active again. Do not alter the amount of the medication or how frequently you take it on your own. If you have any side effects or you continue to have symptoms, speak to your healthcare team immediately.

For further information, please check out <http://www.ibdmedicationguide.org/> or follow this link:

</sites/default/files/2020-03/immunomodulators.pdf>