

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use PROGRAF® safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for PROGRAF.

PROGRAF (tacrolimus) capsules, for oral use
PROGRAF (tacrolimus) injection, for intravenous use
PROGRAF Granules (tacrolimus for oral suspension)
 Initial U.S. Approval: 1994

WARNING: MALIGNANCIES and SERIOUS INFECTIONS
See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

Increased risk for developing serious infections and malignancies with PROGRAF or other immunosuppressants that may lead to hospitalization or death. (5.1, 5.2)

----- **RECENT MAJOR CHANGES** -----
 Warnings and Precautions (5.5, 5.10, 5.16) 11/2022

----- **INDICATIONS AND USAGE** -----
 PROGRAF is a calcineurin-inhibitor immunosuppressant indicated for the prophylaxis of organ rejection in adult and pediatric patients receiving allogeneic liver, kidney, heart, or lung transplants, in combination with other immunosuppressants. (1.1)

- **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** -----
- Intravenous (IV) use recommended for patients who cannot tolerate oral formulations (capsules or suspension). (2.1, 2.2)
 - Administer capsules or suspension consistently with or without food. (2.1)
 - Therapeutic drug monitoring is recommended. (2.1, 2.6)
 - Avoid eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice. (2.1)
 - See dosage adjustments for African-American patients (2.2), hepatic and renal impaired. (2.4, 2.5)
 - For complete dosing information, see Full Prescribing Information.

ADULT		
Patient Population	Initial Oral Dosage (formulation)	Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range
Kidney Transplant		
With azathioprine	0.2 mg/kg/day capsules, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-3: 7-20 ng/mL Month 4-12: 5-15 ng/mL
With MMF/IL-2 receptor antagonist	0.1 mg/kg/day capsules, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 4-11 ng/mL
Liver Transplant		
With corticosteroids only	0.1-0.15 mg/kg/day capsules, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Heart Transplant		
With azathioprine or MMF	0.075 mg/kg/day capsules, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-3: 10-20 ng/mL Month ≥ 4: 5-15 ng/mL
Lung Transplant		
With azathioprine or MMF	0.075 mg/kg/day ¹ capsules, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-3: 10-15 ng/mL Month 4-12: 8-12 ng/mL

PEDIATRIC		
Patient Population	Initial Oral Dosage (formulation)	Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range
Kidney Transplant		
	0.3 mg/kg/day capsules or oral suspension, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Liver Transplant		
	0.15-0.2 mg/kg/day capsules or 0.2 mg/kg/day oral suspension, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Heart Transplant		
	0.3 mg/kg/day ² capsules or oral suspension, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Lung Transplant		
	0.3 mg/kg/day ^{1,2} capsules or oral suspension, divided in two doses, every 12 hours	Weeks 1-2: 10-20 ng/mL Week 2 to Month 12: 10-15 ng/mL

MMF= Mycophenolate mofetil

1. Patients with cystic fibrosis may require higher doses due to lower bioavailability.
2. Dose at 0.1 mg/kg/day if antibody induction treatment is administered.

- **DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS** -----
- Capsules: 0.5 mg, 1 mg and 5 mg (3)
 - Injection: 5 mg/mL (3)
 - For oral suspension: 0.2 mg, 1 mg unit-dose packets containing granules (3)

- **CONTRAINDICATIONS** -----
- Hypersensitivity to tacrolimus or HCO-60 (polyoxyl 60 hydrogenated castor oil). (4)

- **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** -----
- Not Interchangeable with Extended-Release Tacrolimus Products - Medication Errors: Instruct patients or caregivers to recognize the appearance of PROGRAF capsules. (5.3)
 - New Onset Diabetes After Transplant: Monitor blood glucose. (5.4)
 - Nephrotoxicity (acute and/or chronic): Reduce the dose; use caution with other nephrotoxic drugs. (5.5)
 - Neurotoxicity: Including risk of Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES); monitor for neurologic abnormalities; reduce or discontinue PROGRAF. (5.6)
 - Hyperkalemia: Monitor serum potassium levels. Consider carefully before using with other agents also associated with hyperkalemia. (5.7)
 - Hypertension: May require antihypertensive therapy. Monitor relevant drug-drug interactions. (5.8)
 - Anaphylactic Reactions with IV formulation: Observe patients receiving PROGRAF injection for signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis. (5.9)
 - Not recommended for use with sirolimus: Not recommended in liver and heart transplant due to increased risk of serious adverse reactions. (5.10)
 - Myocardial Hypertrophy: Consider dose reduction/discontinuation. (5.13)
 - Immunizations: Avoid live vaccines. (5.14)
 - Pure Red Cell Aplasia: Consider discontinuation of PROGRAF. (5.15)
 - Thrombotic Microangiopathy, Including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura: May occur, especially in patients with infections and certain concomitant medications. (5.16)

----- **ADVERSE REACTIONS** -----
 The most common adverse reactions (≥ 15%) were abnormal renal function, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, fever, CMV infection, tremor, hyperglycemia,

leukopenia, infection, anemia, bronchitis, pericardial effusion, urinary tract infection, constipation, diarrhea, headache, abdominal pain, insomnia, paresthesia, peripheral edema, nausea, hyperkalemia, hypomagnesemia, and hyperlipemia. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Astellas Pharma US, Inc. at 1-800-727-7003 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

----- **DRUG INTERACTIONS** -----

- Mycophenolic Acid Products: Can increase MPA exposure after crossover from cyclosporine to PROGRAF; monitor for MPA-related adverse reactions and adjust MMF or MPA dose as needed. (7.1)
- Nelfinavir and Grapefruit Juice: Increased tacrolimus concentrations via CYP3A inhibition; avoid concomitant use. (7.2)

- CYP3A Inhibitors: Increased tacrolimus concentrations; monitor concentrations and adjust tacrolimus dose as needed. (5.11, 7.2)
- CYP3A4 Inducers: Decreased tacrolimus concentrations; monitor concentrations and adjust tacrolimus dose as needed. (5.11, 7.2)

----- **USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS** -----

Pregnancy: Can cause fetal harm. Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to the fetus. (8.1, 8.3)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling

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*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

WARNING: MALIGNANCIES and SERIOUS INFECTIONS

Increased risk for developing serious infections and malignancies with PROGRAF or other immunosuppressants that may lead to hospitalization or death. (5.1, 5.2)

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

1.1 Prophylaxis of Organ Rejection in Kidney, Liver, Heart, or Lung Transplant

PROGRAF® is indicated for the prophylaxis of organ rejection, in adult and pediatric patients receiving allogeneic kidney transplant [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1\)](#)], liver transplant [see [Clinical Studies \(14.2\)](#)], heart transplant [see [Clinical Studies \(14.3\)](#)], or lung transplant [see [Clinical Studies \(14.4\)](#)] in combination with other immunosuppressants.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Important Administration Instructions

PROGRAF should not be used without supervision by a physician with experience in immunosuppressive therapy.

PROGRAF capsules and PROGRAF Granules are not interchangeable or substitutable for other tacrolimus extended-release products. This is because rate of absorption following the administration of an extended-release tacrolimus product is not equivalent to that of an immediate-release tacrolimus drug product. Under- or overexposure to tacrolimus may result in graft rejection or other serious adverse reactions. Changes between tacrolimus immediate-release and extended-release dosage forms must occur under physician supervision [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.3\)](#)].

Intravenous Formulation - Administration Precautions due to Risk of Anaphylaxis

Intravenous use is recommended for patients who cannot tolerate oral formulations, and conversion from intravenous to oral PROGRAF is recommended as soon as oral therapy can be tolerated to minimize the risk of anaphylactic reactions that occurred with injectables containing castor oil derivatives [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.9\)](#)].

Patients receiving PROGRAF injection should be under continuous observation for at least the first 30 minutes following the start of the infusion and at frequent intervals thereafter. If signs or symptoms of anaphylaxis occur, the infusion should be stopped. An aqueous solution of epinephrine should be available at the bedside as well as a source of oxygen.

Oral Formulations (Capsules and Oral Suspension)

If patients are able to initiate oral therapy, the recommended starting doses should be initiated. PROGRAF Granules for oral suspension or PROGRAF capsules may be taken with or without food. However, since the presence of food affects the bioavailability of PROGRAF, if taken with food, it should be taken consistently the same way each time [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

General Administration Instructions

Patients should not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice in combination with PROGRAF [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

PROGRAF should not be used simultaneously with cyclosporine. PROGRAF or cyclosporine should be discontinued at least 24 hours before initiating the other. In the presence of elevated PROGRAF or cyclosporine concentrations, dosing with the other drug usually should be further delayed.

Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) is recommended for all patients receiving PROGRAF [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.6\)](#)].

2.2 Dosage Recommendations for Adult Kidney, Liver, Heart, or Lung Transplant Patients - Capsules and Injection

Capsules

If patients are able to tolerate oral therapy, the recommended oral starting doses should be initiated. The initial dose of PROGRAF capsules should be administered no sooner than 6 hours after transplantation in the liver, heart, or lung

transplant patients. In kidney transplant patients, the initial dose of PROGRAF capsules may be administered within 24 hours of transplantation, but should be delayed until renal function has recovered.

The initial oral PROGRAF capsule dosage recommendations for adult patients with kidney, liver, heart, or lung transplants and whole blood trough concentration range are shown in [Table 1](#). Perform therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) to ensure that patients are within the ranges listed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Summary of Initial Oral PROGRAF Capsules Dosage Recommendations and Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range in Adults

Patient Population	PROGRAF Capsules ¹ Initial Oral Dosage	Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range
Kidney Transplant		
With Azathioprine	0.2 mg/kg/day, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-3: 7-20 ng/mL Month 4-12: 5-15 ng/mL
With MMF/IL-2 receptor antagonist ²	0.1 mg/kg/day, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 4-11 ng/mL
Liver Transplant		
With corticosteroids only	0.10-0.15 mg/kg/day, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Heart Transplant		
With azathioprine or MMF	0.075 mg/kg/day, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-3: 10-20 ng/mL Month ≥ 4: 5-15 ng/mL
Lung Transplant		
With azathioprine or MMF	0.075 mg/kg/day ³ , divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-3: 10-15 ng/mL Month 4-12: 8-12 ng/mL

1. African-American patients may require higher doses compared to Caucasians (see [Table 2](#)).
2. In a second smaller trial, the initial dose of tacrolimus was 0.15-0.2 mg/kg/day and observed tacrolimus concentrations were 6-16 ng/mL during month 1-3 and 5-12 ng/mL during month 4-12 [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1\)](#)].
3. Patients with cystic fibrosis may require higher doses due to lower bioavailability [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

Dosage should be titrated based on clinical assessments of rejection and tolerability. PROGRAF dosages lower than the recommended initial dosage may be sufficient as maintenance therapy. Adjunct therapy with adrenal corticosteroids is recommended early post-transplant.

The data in kidney transplant patients indicate that the African-American patients required a higher dose to attain comparable trough concentrations compared to Caucasian patients ([Table 2](#)) [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.8\)](#) and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

Table 2. Comparative Dose and Trough Concentrations Based on Race

Time After Transplant	Caucasian N = 114		African-American N = 56	
	Dose (mg/kg)	Trough Concentrations (ng/mL)	Dose (mg/kg)	Trough Concentrations (ng/mL)
Day 7	0.18	12.0	0.23	10.9
Month 1	0.17	12.8	0.26	12.9
Month 6	0.14	11.8	0.24	11.5
Month 12	0.13	10.1	0.19	11.0

In lung transplantation, cystic fibrosis patients may have a reduced bioavailability of orally administered tacrolimus resulting in the need for higher doses to achieve target tacrolimus trough concentrations. Monitor tacrolimus trough concentrations and adjust the dose accordingly.

Intravenous Injection

PROGRAF injection should be used only as a continuous intravenous infusion and should be discontinued as soon as the patient can tolerate oral administration. The first dose of PROGRAF capsules should be given 8-12 hours after discontinuing the intravenous infusion.

The recommended starting dose of PROGRAF injection is 0.03-0.05 mg/kg/day in kidney or liver transplant, 0.01 mg/kg/day in heart transplant, and 0.01-0.03 mg/kg/day in lung transplant, given as a continuous intravenous infusion. Adult patients should receive doses at the lower end of the dosing range. Concomitant adrenal corticosteroid therapy is recommended early post-transplantation.

The whole blood trough concentration range described in [Table 1](#) pertains to oral administration of PROGRAF only; while monitoring PROGRAF concentrations in patients receiving PROGRAF injection as a continuous intravenous infusion may have some utility, the observed concentrations will not represent comparable exposures to those estimated by the trough concentrations observed in patients on oral therapy.

Anaphylactic reactions have occurred with injectables containing castor oil derivatives, such as PROGRAF injection. Therefore, monitoring for signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis is recommended [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.9\)](#)].

2.3 Dosage Recommendations for Pediatric Kidney, Liver, Heart, or Lung Transplant Patients

Oral formulations (capsules or oral suspension)

Pediatric patients, in general, need higher tacrolimus doses compared to adults: the higher dose requirements may decrease as the child grows older. Recommendations for the initial oral dosage for pediatric transplant patients and whole blood trough concentration range are shown in [Table 3](#). Perform TDM to ensure that patients are within the ranges listed in [Table 3](#).

Table 3. Summary of Initial PROGRAF Capsule and PROGRAF Granules Dosage Recommendations and Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range in Children

Patient Population	Initial PROGRAF Capsule and PROGRAF Granules Dosing	Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range
Pediatric kidney transplant patients ¹	0.3 mg/kg/day capsules or oral suspension, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Pediatric liver transplant patients ²	0.15-0.2 mg/kg/day capsules or 0.2 mg/kg/day oral suspension, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Pediatric heart transplant patients ¹	0.3 mg/kg/day ³ capsules or oral suspension, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Month 1-12: 5-20 ng/mL
Pediatric lung transplant patients	0.3 mg/kg/day ^{3,4} capsules or oral suspension, divided in two doses, administered every 12 hours	Week 1-2: 10-20 ng/mL Week 2 to Month 12: 10-15 ng/mL

1. See [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#), PROGRAF Granules Pharmacokinetics in Pediatric Patients.
2. See [Clinical Studies \(14.2\)](#), Liver Transplantation.
3. Dose at 0.1 mg/kg/day if antibody induction treatment is administered.

4. Patients with cystic fibrosis may require higher doses due to lower bioavailability [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

In lung transplantation, cystic fibrosis patients may have a reduced bioavailability of orally administered tacrolimus resulting in the need for higher doses to achieve target tacrolimus trough concentrations. Monitor tacrolimus trough concentrations and adjust the dose accordingly.

For conversion of pediatric patients from PROGRAF Granules to PROGRAF capsules or from PROGRAF capsules to PROGRAF Granules, the total daily dose should remain the same. Following conversion from one formulation to another formulation of tacrolimus, therapeutic drug monitoring is recommended [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.6\)](#)].

Intravenous Injection

If a patient is unable to receive an oral formulation, the patient may be started on PROGRAF injection. For pediatric liver transplant patients, the intravenous dose is 0.03-0.05 mg/kg/day.

2.4 Dosage Modification for Patients with Renal Impairment

Due to its potential for nephrotoxicity, consider dosing PROGRAF at the lower end of the therapeutic dosing range in patients who have received a liver, heart, or lung transplant, and have pre-existing renal impairment. Further reductions in dose below the targeted range may be required.

In kidney transplant patients with post-operative oliguria, the initial dose of PROGRAF should be administered no sooner than 6 hours and within 24 hours of transplantation, but may be delayed until renal function shows evidence of recovery [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#), [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#), [Use in Specific Populations \(8.6\)](#), and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

2.5 Dosage Modification for Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Due to the reduced clearance and prolonged half-life, patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh ≥ 10) may require lower doses of PROGRAF. Close monitoring of blood concentrations is warranted.

The use of PROGRAF in liver transplant recipients experiencing post-transplant hepatic impairment may be associated with increased risk of developing renal insufficiency related to high whole blood concentrations of tacrolimus. These patients should be monitored closely, and dosage adjustments should be considered. Some evidence suggests that lower doses should be used in these patients [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#), [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#), [Use in Specific Populations \(8.7\)](#), and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

2.6 Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Monitoring of tacrolimus blood concentrations in conjunction with other laboratory and clinical parameters is considered an essential aid to patient management for the evaluation of rejection, toxicity, dose adjustments, and compliance. Whole blood trough concentration range can be found in [Table 1](#).

Factors influencing frequency of monitoring include but are not limited to hepatic or renal dysfunction, the addition or discontinuation of potentially interacting drugs and the post-transplant time. Blood concentration monitoring is not a replacement for renal and liver function monitoring and tissue biopsies. Data from clinical trials show that tacrolimus whole blood concentrations were most variable during the first week post-transplantation.

The relative risks of toxicity and efficacy failure are related to tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations. Therefore, monitoring of whole blood trough concentrations is recommended to assist in the clinical evaluation of toxicity and efficacy failure.

Methods commonly used for the assay of tacrolimus include high-performance liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometric detection (HPLC/MS/MS) and immunoassays. Immunoassays may react with metabolites as well as parent compound. Therefore, assay results obtained with immunoassays may have a positive bias relative to results of HPLC/MS. The bias may depend upon the specific assay and laboratory. Comparison of the concentrations in published literature to patient concentrations using the current assays must be made with detailed knowledge of the assay methods and biological matrices employed. Whole blood is the matrix of choice and specimens should be collected into tubes containing ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA) anticoagulant. Heparin anticoagulation is not recommended because of the tendency to form clots on storage. Samples which are not analyzed immediately should be stored at room temperature or in a refrigerator and assayed within 7 days; see assay instructions for specifics. If samples are to be kept longer, they should be deep frozen at -20°C. One study showed drug recovery > 90% for samples stored at -20°C for 6 months, with reduced recovery observed after 6 months.

2.7 Preparation and Administration Instructions of PROGRAF Injection for Pharmacists

Tacrolimus can cause fetal harm. Follow applicable special handling and disposal procedures¹ [*see [How Supplied/ Storage and Handling \(16.4\)](#)*].

PROGRAF injection must be diluted with 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection or 5% Dextrose Injection to a concentration between 0.004 mg/mL and 0.02 mg/mL prior to use. Diluted infusion solution should be stored in glass or polyethylene containers and should be discarded after 24 hours. The diluted infusion solution should not be stored in a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) container due to decreased stability and the potential for extraction of phthalates. In situations where more dilute solutions are utilized (e.g., pediatric dosing, etc.), PVC-free tubing should likewise be used to minimize the potential for significant drug adsorption onto the tubing.

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit.

Due to the chemical instability of tacrolimus in alkaline media, PROGRAF injection should not be mixed or co-infused with solutions of pH 9 or greater (e.g., ganciclovir or acyclovir).

2.8 Preparation and Administration Instructions of PROGRAF Granules

Tacrolimus can cause fetal harm. Follow applicable special handling and disposal procedures¹ [*see [How Supplied/ Storage and Handling \(16.4\)](#)*].

The required dose for PROGRAF Granules is calculated based on the weight of the patient. Use the minimum whole number of packets that corresponds to the required morning or evening dose. If the morning or evening dose is not covered by the whole number of packets, use one additional 0.2 mg packet to round up the dose. Do not use tubing, syringes and other equipment (cups) containing PVC to prepare or administer tacrolimus products. Do not sprinkle PROGRAF Granules on food. Prepare and administer PROGRAF Granules as follows:

- To prepare the dose, empty the entire contents of each PROGRAF Granules packet into a glass cup. Check for any remaining granules in the packet(s) and empty these into the cup.
- Add 1 to 2 tablespoons (15 to 30 milliliters) of room temperature drinking water to the cup containing the PROGRAF Granules.
- Mix and administer the entire contents of the cup. The granules will not completely dissolve. The suspension should be given immediately after preparation.
- For younger patients, the suspension can be drawn up via a non-PVC oral syringe that will be dispensed with the prescription.
- The cup or syringe should be rinsed with the same quantity of water (15 to 30 milliliters) and given to the patient to

ensure all of the medication is taken.

- The pharmacy must dispense with the Instructions for Use. Alert the patient to read the Instructions for Use.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

PROGRAF is available in the following dosage forms and strengths:

Capsules	Oblong, hard capsule for oral administration contains anhydrous tacrolimus USP as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.5 mg, light-yellow color, imprinted in red “0.5 mg” on the capsule cap and “f 607” on capsule body• 1 mg, white color, imprinted in red “1 mg” on the capsule cap and “f 617” on capsule body• 5 mg, grayish-red color, imprinted with white “5 mg” on the capsule cap and “f 657” on capsule body
Injection	1 mL ampule for intravenous infusion contains anhydrous tacrolimus USP, 5 mg/mL
For Oral Suspension	Unit-dose packets with white granules for oral suspension contains anhydrous tacrolimus USP: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.2 mg• 1 mg

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

PROGRAF is contraindicated in patients with a hypersensitivity to tacrolimus. PROGRAF injection is contraindicated in patients with a hypersensitivity to HCO-60 (polyoxyl 60 hydrogenated castor oil). Hypersensitivity symptoms reported include dyspnea, rash, pruritus, and acute respiratory distress syndrome [see [Adverse Reactions \(6\)](#)].

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Lymphoma and Other Malignancies

Patients receiving immunosuppressants, including PROGRAF, are at increased risk of developing lymphomas and other malignancies, particularly of the skin. The risk appears to be related to the intensity and duration of immunosuppression rather than to the use of any specific agent.

As usual for patients with increased risk for skin cancer, examine patients for skin changes; exposure to sunlight and UV light should be limited by wearing protective clothing and using a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a high protection factor.

Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD) has been reported in immunosuppressed organ transplant recipients. The majority of PTLD events appear related to Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) infection. The risk of PTLD appears greatest in those individuals who are EBV seronegative, a population which includes many young children. Monitor EBV serology during treatment.

5.2 Serious Infections

Patients receiving immunosuppressants, including PROGRAF, are at increased risk of developing bacterial, viral, fungal, and protozoal infections, including opportunistic infections. These infections may lead to serious, including fatal, outcomes. Serious viral infections reported include:

- Polyomavirus-associated nephropathy (PVAN), mostly due to BK virus infection

- JC virus-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)
- Cytomegalovirus infections: CMV seronegative transplant patients who receive an organ from a CMV seropositive donor disease are at higher risk of developing CMV viremia and CMV disease.

Monitor for the development of infection and adjust the immunosuppressive regimen to balance the risk of rejection with the risk of infection [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1, 6.2\)](#)].

5.3 Not Interchangeable with Extended-Release Tacrolimus Products - Medication Errors

Medication errors, including substitution and dispensing errors, between tacrolimus immediate-release products and tacrolimus extended-release products were reported outside the U.S. This led to serious adverse reactions, including graft rejection, or other adverse reactions due to under- or overexposure to tacrolimus. PROGRAF is not interchangeable or substitutable for tacrolimus extended-release products. Changes between tacrolimus immediate-release and extended-release dosage forms must occur under physician supervision. Instruct patients and caregivers to recognize the appearance of PROGRAF dosage forms [see [Dosage Forms and Strengths \(3\)](#)] and to confirm with the healthcare provider if a different product is dispensed.

5.4 New Onset Diabetes After Transplant

PROGRAF was shown to cause new onset diabetes mellitus in clinical trials of kidney, liver, heart, or lung transplantation. New onset diabetes after transplantation may be reversible in some patients. African-American and Hispanic kidney transplant patients are at an increased risk. Blood glucose concentrations should be monitored closely in patients using PROGRAF [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

5.5 Nephrotoxicity due to PROGRAF and Drug Interactions

PROGRAF, like other calcineurin inhibitors, can cause acute or chronic nephrotoxicity in transplant patients due to its vasoconstrictive effect on renal vasculature, toxic tubulopathy and tubular-interstitial effects. Nephrotoxicity was reported in clinical trials [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

Acute renal impairment associated with tacrolimus toxicity can result in high serum creatinine, hyperkalemia, decreased secretion of urea and hyperuricemia, and is usually reversible. In patients with elevated serum creatinine and tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations greater than the recommended range, consider dosage reduction or temporary interruption of tacrolimus administration.

The risk for nephrotoxicity may increase when PROGRAF is concomitantly administered with CYP3A inhibitors (by increasing tacrolimus whole blood concentrations) or drugs associated with nephrotoxicity (e.g., aminoglycosides, ganciclovir, amphotericin B, cisplatin, nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors, protease inhibitors). When tacrolimus is used concurrently with other known nephrotoxic drugs, monitor renal function and tacrolimus blood concentrations, and adjust doses of both tacrolimus and/or concomitant medications during concurrent use [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

5.6 Neurotoxicity

PROGRAF may cause a spectrum of neurotoxicities. The most severe neurotoxicities include posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES), delirium, seizure and coma; others include tremors, paresthesias, headache, mental status changes, and changes in motor and sensory functions [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1, 6.2\)](#)]. As symptoms may be associated with tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations at or above the recommended range, monitor for neurologic symptoms and consider dosage reduction or discontinuation of PROGRAF if neurotoxicity occurs.

5.7 Hyperkalemia

Hyperkalemia has been reported with PROGRAF use. Serum potassium levels should be monitored. Careful consideration should be given prior to use of other agents also associated with hyperkalemia (e.g., potassium-sparing diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers) during PROGRAF therapy [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)]. Monitor serum potassium levels periodically during treatment.

5.8 Hypertension

Hypertension is a common adverse effect of PROGRAF therapy and may require antihypertensive therapy [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)]. The control of blood pressure can be accomplished with any of the common antihypertensive agents, though careful consideration should be given prior to use of antihypertensive agents associated with hyperkalemia (e.g., potassium-sparing diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers) [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7\)](#)]. Calcium-channel blocking agents may increase tacrolimus blood concentrations and therefore require dosage reduction of PROGRAF [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

5.9 Anaphylactic Reactions with PROGRAF Injection

Anaphylactic reactions have occurred with injectables containing castor oil derivatives, including PROGRAF, in a small percentage of patients (0.6%). The exact cause of these reactions is not known. PROGRAF injection should be reserved for patients who are unable to take PROGRAF orally. Monitor patients for anaphylaxis when using the intravenous route of administration [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.1\)](#)].

5.10 Not Recommended for Use with Sirolimus

PROGRAF is not recommended for use with sirolimus:

- The use of sirolimus with PROGRAF in studies of *de novo* liver transplant patients was associated with an excess mortality, graft loss, and hepatic artery thrombosis (HAT), and is not recommended.
- The use of sirolimus (2 mg per day) with PROGRAF in heart transplant patients in a U.S. trial was associated with increased risk of renal function impairment, wound healing complications, and insulin-dependent post-transplant diabetes mellitus, and is not recommended [see [Clinical Studies \(14.3\)](#)].
- The use of sirolimus with PROGRAF may increase the risk of thrombotic microangiopathy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.16\)](#)].

5.11 Interactions with CYP3A4 Inhibitors and Inducers

When co-administering PROGRAF with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., telaprevir, boceprevir, ritonavir, ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, clarithromycin) and strong inducers (e.g., rifampin, rifabutin), adjustments in the dosing regimen of PROGRAF and subsequent frequent monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and tacrolimus-associated adverse reactions are recommended. A rapid, sharp rise in tacrolimus levels has been reported after co-administration with a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor, clarithromycin, despite an initial reduction of tacrolimus dose. Early and frequent monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood trough levels is recommended [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

5.12 QT Prolongation

PROGRAF may prolong the QT/QTc interval and may cause *Torsades de pointes*. Avoid PROGRAF in patients with congenital long QT syndrome. In patients with congestive heart failure, bradyarrhythmias, those taking certain antiarrhythmic medications or other medicinal products that lead to QT prolongation, and those with electrolyte disturbances such as hypokalemia, hypocalcemia, or hypomagnesemia, consider obtaining electrocardiograms and monitoring electrolytes (magnesium, potassium, calcium) periodically during treatment.

When co-administering PROGRAF with other substrates and/or inhibitors of CYP3A4 that also have the potential to prolong the QT interval, a reduction in PROGRAF dose, frequent monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood concentrations, and monitoring for QT prolongation is recommended. Use of PROGRAF with amiodarone has been reported to result in increased tacrolimus whole blood concentrations with or without concurrent QT prolongation [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

5.13 Myocardial Hypertrophy

Myocardial hypertrophy has been reported in infants, children, and adults, particularly those with high tacrolimus trough concentrations, and is generally manifested by echocardiographically demonstrated concentric increases in left ventricular posterior wall and interventricular septum thickness. This condition appears reversible in most cases following dose reduction or discontinuance of therapy. In patients who develop renal failure or clinical manifestations of ventricular dysfunction while receiving PROGRAF therapy, echocardiographic evaluation should be considered. If myocardial hypertrophy is diagnosed, dosage reduction or discontinuation of PROGRAF should be considered [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.2\)](#)].

5.14 Immunizations

Whenever possible, administer the complete complement of vaccines before transplantation and treatment with PROGRAF.

The use of live vaccines should be avoided during treatment with tacrolimus; examples include (not limited to) the following: intranasal influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, oral polio, BCG, yellow fever, varicella, and TY21a typhoid vaccines.

Inactivated vaccines noted to be safe for administration after transplantation may not be sufficiently immunogenic during treatment with PROGRAF.

5.15 Pure Red Cell Aplasia

Cases of pure red cell aplasia (PRCA) have been reported in patients treated with tacrolimus. A mechanism for tacrolimus-induced PRCA has not been elucidated. All patients reported risk factors for PRCA such as parvovirus B19 infection, underlying disease, or concomitant medications associated with PRCA. If PRCA is diagnosed, discontinuation of PROGRAF should be considered [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.2\)](#)].

5.16 Thrombotic Microangiopathy (Including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura)

Cases of thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA), including hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) and thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), have been reported in patients treated with PROGRAF. TMA may have a multifactorial etiology. Risk factors for TMA that can occur in transplant patients include, for example, severe infections, graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) mismatch, the use of calcineurin inhibitors and mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitors. These risk factors may, either alone or combined, contribute to the risk of TMA.

In patients with signs and symptoms of TMA, consider tacrolimus as a risk factor. Concurrent use of tacrolimus and mTOR inhibitors may contribute to the risk of TMA.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following serious and otherwise important adverse drug reactions are discussed in greater detail in other sections of labeling:

- Lymphoma and Other Malignancies [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)]
- Serious Infections [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)]
- New Onset Diabetes After Transplant [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)]
- Nephrotoxicity [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)]
- Neurotoxicity [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)]
- Hyperkalemia [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7\)](#)]
- Hypertension [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8\)](#)]
- Anaphylactic Reactions with PROGRAF Injection [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.9\)](#)]
- Myocardial Hypertrophy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.13\)](#)]
- Pure Red Cell Aplasia [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.15\)](#)]
- Thrombotic Microangiopathy, Including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.16\)](#)]

6.1 Clinical Studies Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice. In addition, the clinical trials were not designed to establish comparative differences across study arms with regards to the adverse reactions discussed below.

Kidney Transplantation

The incidence of adverse reactions was determined in three randomized kidney transplant trials. One of the trials used azathioprine (AZA) and corticosteroids and two of the trials used mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and corticosteroids concomitantly for maintenance immunosuppression.

PROGRAF-based immunosuppression in conjunction with azathioprine and corticosteroids following kidney transplantation was assessed in a trial where 205 patients received PROGRAF-based immunosuppression and 207 patients received cyclosporine-based immunosuppression. The trial population had a mean age of 43 years (mean \pm SD was 43 ± 13 years on PROGRAF and 44 ± 12 years on cyclosporine arm), the distribution was 61% male, and the composition was White (58%), African-American (25%), Hispanic (12%), and Other (5%). The 12-month post-transplant information from this trial is presented below.

The most common adverse reactions ($\geq 30\%$) observed in PROGRAF-treated kidney transplant patients are: infection, tremor, hypertension, abnormal renal function, constipation, diarrhea, headache, abdominal pain, insomnia, nausea, hypomagnesemia, urinary tract infection, hypophosphatemia, peripheral edema, asthenia, pain, hyperlipidemia, hyperkalemia, and anemia. Based on reported adverse reaction terms related to decreased renal function, nephrotoxicity was reported in approximately 52% of kidney transplantation patients.

Adverse reactions that occurred in $\geq 15\%$ of kidney transplant patients treated with PROGRAF in conjunction with azathioprine are presented below:

Table 4. Kidney Transplantation: Adverse Reactions Occurring in $\geq 15\%$ of Patients Treated with PROGRAF in Conjunction with Azathioprine (AZA)

	PROGRAF/AZA (N = 205)	Cyclosporine/AZA (N = 207)
Nervous System		
Tremor	54%	34%

	PROGRAF/AZA (N = 205)	Cyclosporine/AZA (N = 207)
Headache	44%	38%
Insomnia	32%	30%
Paresthesia	23%	16%
Dizziness	19%	16%
Gastrointestinal		
Diarrhea	44%	41%
Nausea	38%	36%
Constipation	35%	43%
Vomiting	29%	23%
Dyspepsia	28%	20%
Cardiovascular		
Hypertension	50%	52%
Chest Pain	19%	13%
Urogenital		
Creatinine Increased	45%	42%
Urinary Tract Infection	34%	35%
Metabolic and Nutritional		
Hypophosphatemia	49%	53%
Hypomagnesemia	34%	17%
Hyperlipemia	31%	38%
Hyperkalemia	31%	32%
Diabetes Mellitus	24%	9%
Hypokalemia	22%	25%
Hyperglycemia	22%	16%
Edema	18%	19%
Hemic and Lymphatic		
Anemia	30%	24%

	PROGRAF/AZA (N = 205)	Cyclosporine/AZA (N = 207)
Leukopenia	15%	17%
Miscellaneous		
Infection	45%	49%
Peripheral Edema	36%	48%
Asthenia	34%	30%
Abdominal Pain	33%	31%
Pain	32%	30%
Fever	29%	29%
Back Pain	24%	20%
Respiratory System		
Dyspnea	22%	18%
Cough Increased	18%	15%
Musculoskeletal		
Arthralgia	25%	24%
Skin		
Rash	17%	12%
Pruritus	15%	7%

Two trials were conducted for PROGRAF-based immunosuppression in conjunction with MMF and corticosteroids. In the non-US trial (Study 1), the incidence of adverse reactions was based on 1195 kidney transplant patients that received PROGRAF (Group C, n = 403), or one of two cyclosporine (CsA) regimens (Group A, n = 384 and Group B, n = 408) in combination with MMF and corticosteroids; all patients, except those in one of the two cyclosporine groups, also received induction with daclizumab. The trial population had a mean age of 46 years (range 17 to 76); the distribution was 65% male, and the composition was 93% Caucasian. The 12-month post-transplant information from this trial is presented below.

Adverse reactions that occurred in $\geq 10\%$ of kidney transplant patients treated with PROGRAF in conjunction with MMF in Study 1 [Note: This trial was conducted entirely outside of the United States. Such trials often report a lower incidence of adverse reactions in comparison to U.S. trials] are presented below:

Table 5. Kidney Transplantation: Adverse Reactions Occurring in $\geq 10\%$ of Patients Treated with PROGRAF in Conjunction with MMF (Study 1)

	PROGRAF (Group C) (N = 403)	Cyclosporine (Group A) (N = 384)	Cyclosporine (Group B) (N = 408)
Diarrhea	25%	16%	13%
Urinary Tract Infection	24%	28%	24%
Anemia	17%	19%	17%
Hypertension	13%	14%	12%
Leukopenia	13%	10%	10%
Edema Peripheral	11%	12%	13%
Hyperlipidemia	10%	15%	13%
Key: Group A = CsA/MMF/CS, B = CsA/MMF/CS/Daclizumab, C = Tac/MMF/CS/Daclizumab CsA = Cyclosporine, CS = Corticosteroids, Tac = Tacrolimus, MMF = mycophenolate mofetil			

In the U.S. trial (Study 2) with PROGRAF-based immunosuppression in conjunction with MMF and corticosteroids, 424 kidney transplant patients received PROGRAF (n = 212) or cyclosporine (n = 212) in combination with MMF 1 gram twice daily, basiliximab induction, and corticosteroids. The trial population had a mean age of 48 years (range 17 to 77); the distribution was 63% male, and the composition was White (74%), African-American (20%), Asian (3%), and Other (3%). The 12-month post-transplant information from this trial is presented below.

Adverse reactions that occurred in $\geq 15\%$ of kidney transplant patients treated with PROGRAF in conjunction with MMF in Study 2 are presented below:

Table 6. Kidney Transplantation: Adverse Reactions Occurring in $\geq 15\%$ of Patients Treated with PROGRAF in Conjunction with MMF (Study 2)

	PROGRAF/MMF (N = 212)	Cyclosporine/MMF (N = 212)
Gastrointestinal Disorders		
Diarrhea	44%	26%
Nausea	39%	47%
Constipation	36%	41%
Vomiting	26%	25%
Dyspepsia	18%	15%
Injury, Poisoning, and Procedural Complications		
Post-Procedural Pain	29%	27%
Incision Site Complication	28%	23%
Graft Dysfunction	24%	18%
Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders		
Hypomagnesemia	28%	22%
Hypophosphatemia	28%	21%
Hyperkalemia	26%	19%
Hyperglycemia	21%	15%
Hyperlipidemia	18%	25%
Hypokalemia	16%	18%
Nervous System Disorders		
Tremor	34%	20%
Headache	24%	25%
Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders		

	PROGRAF/MMF (N = 212)	Cyclosporine/MMF (N = 212)
Anemia	30%	28%
Leukopenia	16%	12%
Miscellaneous		
Edema Peripheral	35%	46%
Hypertension	32%	35%
Insomnia	30%	21%
Urinary Tract Infection	26%	22%
Blood Creatinine Increased	23%	23%

Less frequently observed adverse reactions in kidney transplantation patients are described under the subsection “Less Frequently Reported Adverse Reactions (> 3% and < 15%) in Liver, Kidney, and Heart Transplant Studies.”

Liver Transplantation

There were two randomized comparative liver transplant trials. In the U.S. trial, 263 adult and pediatric patients received tacrolimus and steroids and 266 patients received cyclosporine-based immunosuppressive regimen (CsA/AZA). The trial population had a mean age of 44 years (range 0.4 to 70); the distribution was 52% male, and the composition was White (78%), African-American (5%), Asian (2%), Hispanic (13%), and Other (2%). In the European trial, 270 patients received tacrolimus and steroids and 275 patients received CsA/AZA. The trial population had a mean age of 46 years (range 15 to 68); the distribution was 59% male, and the composition was White (95.4%), Black (1%), Asian (2%), and Other (2%).

The proportion of patients reporting more than one adverse event was > 99% in both the tacrolimus group and the CsA/AZA group. Precautions must be taken when comparing the incidence of adverse reactions in the U.S. trial to that in the European trial. The 12-month post-transplant information from the U.S. trial and from the European trial is presented below. The two trials also included different patient populations and patients were treated with immunosuppressive regimens of differing intensities. Adverse reactions reported in ≥ 15% in tacrolimus patients (combined trial results) are presented below for the two controlled trials in liver transplantation.

The most common adverse reactions (≥ 40%) observed in PROGRAF-treated liver transplant patients are: tremor, headache, diarrhea, hypertension, nausea, abnormal renal function, abdominal pain, insomnia, paresthesia, anemia, pain, fever, asthenia, hyperkalemia, hypomagnesemia, and hyperglycemia. These all occur with oral and IV administration of PROGRAF and some may respond to a reduction in dosing (e.g., tremor, headache, paresthesia, hypertension). Diarrhea was sometimes associated with other gastrointestinal complaints such as nausea and vomiting. Based on reported adverse reaction terms related to decreased renal function, nephrotoxicity was reported in approximately 40% and 36% of liver transplantation patients receiving PROGRAF in the U.S. and European randomized trials.

Table 7. Liver Transplantation: Adverse Reactions Occurring in ≥ 15% of Patients Treated with PROGRAF

	U.S. TRIAL		EUROPEAN TRIAL	
	PROGRAF (N = 250)	Cyclosporine/ AZA (N = 250)	PROGRAF (N = 264)	Cyclosporine/ AZA (N = 265)
Nervous System				
Headache	64%	60%	37%	26%

	U.S. TRIAL		EUROPEAN TRIAL	
	PROGRAF (N = 250)	Cyclosporine/ AZA (N = 250)	PROGRAF (N = 264)	Cyclosporine/ AZA (N = 265)
Insomnia	64%	68%	32%	23%
Tremor	56%	46%	48%	32%
Paresthesia	40%	30%	17%	17%
Gastrointestinal				
Diarrhea	72%	47%	37%	27%
Nausea	46%	37%	32%	27%
LFT Abnormal	36%	30%	6%	5%
Anorexia	34%	24%	7%	5%
Vomiting	27%	15%	14%	11%
Constipation	24%	27%	23%	21%
Cardiovascular				
Hypertension	47%	56%	38%	43%
Urogenital				
Kidney Function Abnormal	40%	27%	36%	23%
Creatinine Increased	39%	25%	24%	19%
BUN Increased	30%	22%	12%	9%
Oliguria	18%	15%	19%	12%
Urinary Tract Infection	16%	18%	21%	19%
Metabolic and Nutritional				
Hypomagnesemia	48%	45%	16%	9%
Hyperglycemia	47%	38%	33%	22%
Hyperkalemia	45%	26%	13%	9%
Hypokalemia	29%	34%	13%	16%
Hemic and Lymphatic				

	U.S. TRIAL		EUROPEAN TRIAL	
	PROGRAF (N = 250)	Cyclosporine/ AZA (N = 250)	PROGRAF (N = 264)	Cyclosporine/ AZA (N = 265)
Anemia	47%	38%	5%	1%
Leukocytosis	32%	26%	8%	8%
Thrombocytopenia	24%	20%	14%	19%
Miscellaneous				
Pain	63%	57%	24%	22%
Abdominal Pain	59%	54%	29%	22%
Asthenia	52%	48%	11%	7%
Fever	48%	56%	19%	22%
Back Pain	30%	29%	17%	17%
Ascites	27%	22%	7%	8%
Peripheral Edema	26%	26%	12%	14%
Respiratory System				
Pleural Effusion	30%	32%	36%	35%
Dyspnea	29%	23%	5%	4%
Atelectasis	28%	30%	5%	4%
Skin and Appendages				
Pruritus	36%	20%	15%	7%
Rash	24%	19%	10%	4%

Table 8. Pediatric Liver Transplantation: Adverse Reactions Occurring in > 10% of Patients Treated with PROGRAF Granules (STUDY 01-13)

	PROGRAF Granules (N = 91)	Cyclosporine (N = 90)
Body as a Whole		
Fever	46%	51%
Infection	25%	29%
Sepsis	22%	20%
CMV Infection	15%	24%
EBV Infection	26%	11%
Ascites	17%	20%

	PROGRAF Granules (N = 91)	Cyclosporine (N = 90)
Peritonitis	12%	7%
Cardiovascular System		
Hypertension	39%	47%
Digestive System		
Liver Function Tests Abnormal	37%	28%
Diarrhea	26%	26%
Vomiting	15%	13%
Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage	11%	12%
Bile Duct Disorder	12%	8%
Gastroenteritis	12%	4%
Hemic and Lymphatic System		
Anemia	29%	19%
Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders		
Hypomagnesemia	40%	29%
Acidosis	26%	17%
Hyperkalemia	12%	10%
Respiratory System		
Pleural Effusion	22%	19%
Bronchitis	11%	8%
Urogenital System		
Kidney Function Abnormal	13%	14%

Less frequently observed adverse reactions in liver transplantation patients are described under the subsection “Less Frequently Reported Adverse Reactions (> 3% and < 15%) in Liver, Kidney, and Heart Transplant Studies.”

Heart Transplantation

The incidence of adverse reactions was determined based on two trials in primary orthotopic heart transplantation. In a trial conducted in Europe, 314 patients received a regimen of antibody induction, corticosteroids, and azathioprine (AZA) in combination with PROGRAF (n = 157) or cyclosporine (n = 157) for 18 months. The trial population had a mean age of 51 years (range 18 to 65); the distribution was 82% male, and the composition was White (96%), Black (3%), and Other (1%).

The most common adverse reactions ($\geq 15\%$) observed in PROGRAF-treated heart transplant patients are: abnormal renal function, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, CMV infection, tremor, hyperglycemia, leukopenia, infection, anemia, bronchitis, pericardial effusion, urinary tract infection, and hyperlipemia. Based on reported adverse reaction terms related to decreased renal function, nephrotoxicity was reported in approximately 59% of heart transplantation patients in the European trial.

Adverse reactions in heart transplant patients in the European trial are presented below:

Table 9. Heart Transplantation: Adverse Reactions Occurring in $\geq 15\%$ of Patients Treated with PROGRAF in Conjunction with Azathioprine (AZA)

	PROGRAF/AZA (N = 157)	Cyclosporine/AZA (N = 157)
Cardiovascular System		
Hypertension	62%	69%
Pericardial Effusion	15%	14%
Body as a Whole		

	PROGRAF/AZA (N = 157)	Cyclosporine/AZA (N = 157)
CMV Infection	32%	30%
Infection	24%	21%
Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders		
Diabetes Mellitus	26%	16%
Hyperglycemia	23%	17%
Hyperlipemia	18%	27%
Hemic and Lymphatic System		
Anemia	50%	36%
Leukopenia	48%	39%
Urogenital System		
Kidney Function Abnormal	56%	57%
Urinary Tract Infection	16%	12%
Respiratory System		
Bronchitis	17%	18%
Nervous System		
Tremor	15%	6%

In the European trial, the cyclosporine trough concentrations were above the pre-defined target range (i.e., 100 to 200 ng/mL) at Day 122 and beyond in 32% to 68% of the patients in the cyclosporine treatment arm, whereas the tacrolimus trough concentrations were within the pre-defined target range (i.e., 5 to 15 ng/mL) in 74% to 86% of the patients in the tacrolimus treatment arm.

In a U.S. trial, the incidence of adverse reactions was based on 331 heart transplant patients that received corticosteroids and PROGRAF in combination with sirolimus (n=109), PROGRAF in combination with MMF (n=107) or cyclosporine modified in combination with MMF (n=115) for 1 year. The trial population had a mean age of 53 years (range 18 to 75); the distribution was 78% male, and the composition was White (83%), African-American (13%) and Other (4%). Only selected targeted treatment-emergent adverse reactions were collected in the U.S. heart transplantation trial. Those reactions that were reported at a rate of 15% or greater in patients treated with PROGRAF and MMF include the following: any target adverse reactions (99%), hypertension (89%), hyperglycemia requiring antihyperglycemic therapy (70%), hypertriglyceridemia (65%), anemia (hemoglobin < 10.0 g/dL) (65%), fasting blood glucose > 140 mg/dL (on two separate occasions) (61%), hypercholesterolemia (57%), hyperlipidemia (34%), WBCs < 3000 cells/mcL (34%), serious bacterial infections (30%), magnesium < 1.2 mEq/L (24%), platelet count < 75,000 cells/mcL (19%), and other opportunistic infections (15%).

Other targeted treatment-emergent adverse reactions in PROGRAF-treated patients occurred at a rate of less than 15%, and include the following: Cushingoid features, impaired wound healing, hyperkalemia, *Candida* infection, and CMV infection/syndrome. Other less frequently observed adverse reactions in heart transplantation patients are described under the subsection “Less Frequently Reported Adverse Reactions (> 3% and < 15%) in Liver, Kidney and Heart Transplant Studies.”

New Onset Diabetes After Transplant

Kidney Transplantation

New Onset Diabetes After Transplant (NODAT) is defined as a composite of fasting plasma glucose \geq 126 mg/dL, HbA_{1c} \geq 6%, insulin use \geq 30 days, or oral hypoglycemic use. In a trial in kidney transplant patients (Study 2), NODAT was observed in 75% in the PROGRAF-treated and 61% in the NEORAL-treated patients without pre-transplant history of diabetes mellitus ([Table 10](#)) [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1\)](#)].

Table 10. Incidence of New Onset Diabetes After Transplant at 1 year in Kidney Transplant Recipients in a Phase 3 Trial (Study 2)

Parameter	Treatment Group	
	PROGRAF/MMF (N = 212)	NEORAL/MMF (N = 212)
NODAT	112/150 (75%)	93/152 (61%)
Fasting Plasma Glucose ≥ 126 mg/dL	96/150 (64%)	80/152 (53%)
HbA _{1c} ≥ 6%	59/150 (39%)	28/152 (18%)
Insulin Use ≥ 30 days	9/150 (6%)	4/152 (3%)
Oral Hypoglycemic Use	15/150 (10%)	5/152 (3%)

In early trials of PROGRAF, Post-Transplant Diabetes Mellitus (PTDM) was evaluated with a more limited criterion of “use of insulin for 30 or more consecutive days with < 5-day gap” in patients without a prior history of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus. Data are presented in Tables 11 to 14. PTDM was reported in 20% of PROGRAF/Azathioprine (AZA)-treated kidney transplant patients without pre-transplant history of diabetes mellitus in a Phase 3 trial (Table 11). The median time to onset of PTDM was 68 days. Insulin dependence was reversible in 15% of these PTDM patients at one year and in 50% at 2 years post-transplant. African-American and Hispanic kidney transplant patients were at an increased risk of development of PTDM (Table 12).

Table 11. Incidence of Post-Transplant Diabetes Mellitus and Insulin Use at 2 Years in Kidney Transplant Recipients in a Phase 3 Trial using Azathioprine (AZA)

Status of PTDM ¹	PROGRAF/AZA	CsA/AZA
Patients without pre-transplant history of diabetes mellitus	151	151
New onset PTDM ¹ , 1 st Year	30/151 (20%)	6/151 (4%)
Still insulin-dependent at one year in those without prior history of diabetes	25/151 (17%)	5/151 (3%)
New onset PTDM ¹ post 1 year	1	0
Patients with PTDM ¹ at 2 years	16/151 (11%)	5/151 (3%)

1. Use of insulin for 30 or more consecutive days, with < 5-day gap, without a prior history of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.

Table 12. Development of Post-Transplant Diabetes Mellitus by Race or Ethnicity and by Treatment Group During First Year Post Kidney Transplantation in a Phase 3 Trial

Patient Race	Patients Who Developed PTDM ¹	
	PROGRAF	Cyclosporine
African-American	15/41 (37%)	3 (8%)
Hispanic	5/17 (29%)	1 (6%)
Caucasian	10/82 (12%)	1 (1%)
Other	0/11 (0%)	1 (10%)
Total	30/151 (20%)	6 (4%)

1. Use of insulin for 30 or more consecutive days, with < 5-day gap, without a prior history of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.

Liver Transplantation

Insulin-dependent PTDM was reported in 18% and 11% of PROGRAF-treated liver transplant patients and was reversible in 45% and 31% of these patients at 1 year post-transplant, in the U.S. and European randomized trials, respectively (Table 13). Hyperglycemia was associated with the use of PROGRAF in 47% and 33% of liver transplant recipients in the U.S. and European randomized trials, respectively, and may require treatment [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

Table 13. Incidence of Post-Transplant Diabetes Mellitus and Insulin Use at 1 Year in Liver Transplant Recipients

Status of PTDM ¹	US Trial		European Trial	
	PROGRAF	Cyclosporine	PROGRAF	Cyclosporine
Patients at risk ²	239	236	239	249
New Onset PTDM ¹	42 (18%)	30 (13%)	26 (11%)	12 (5%)
Patients still on insulin at 1 year	23 (10%)	19 (8%)	18 (8%)	6 (2%)

1. Use of insulin for 30 or more consecutive days, with < 5-day gap, without a prior history of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.
2. Patients without pre-transplant history of diabetes mellitus.

Heart Transplantation

Insulin-dependent PTDM was reported in 13% and 22% of PROGRAF-treated heart transplant patients receiving mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) or azathioprine (AZA) and was reversible in 30% and 17% of these patients at one year post-transplant, in the U.S. and European randomized trials, respectively ([Table 14](#)). Hyperglycemia, defined as two fasting plasma glucose levels ≥ 126 mg/dL, was reported with the use of PROGRAF plus MMF or AZA in 32% and 35% of heart transplant recipients in the U.S. and European randomized trials, respectively, and may require treatment [*see Adverse Reactions (6.1)*].

Table 14. Incidence of Post-Transplant Diabetes Mellitus and Insulin Use at 1 Year in Heart Transplant Recipients

Status of PTDM ¹	US Trial		European Trial	
	PROGRAF/MMF	Cyclosporine/MMF	PROGRAF/AZA	Cyclosporine/AZA
Patients at risk ²	75	83	132	138
New Onset PTDM ¹	10 (13%)	6 (7%)	29 (22%)	5 (4%)
Patients still on insulin at 1 year ³	7 (9%)	1 (1%)	24 (18%)	4 (3%)

1. Use of insulin for 30 or more consecutive days without a prior history of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.
2. Patients without pre-transplant history of diabetes mellitus.
3. 7-12 months for the U.S. trial.

Less Frequently Reported Adverse Reactions (> 3% and < 15%) in Liver, Kidney, and Heart Transplant Studies

The following adverse reactions were reported in either liver, kidney, and/or heart transplant recipients who were treated with tacrolimus in clinical trials.

- Nervous System: Abnormal dreams, agitation, amnesia, anxiety, confusion, convulsion, crying, depression, elevated mood, emotional lability, encephalopathy, hemorrhagic stroke, hallucinations, hypertonia, incoordination, monoparesis, myoclonus, nerve compression, nervousness, neuralgia, neuropathy, paralysis flaccid, psychomotor skills impaired, psychosis, quadriparesis, somnolence, thinking abnormal, vertigo, writing impaired
- Special Senses: Abnormal vision, amblyopia, ear pain, otitis media, tinnitus
- Gastrointestinal: Cholangitis, cholestatic jaundice, duodenitis, dysphagia, esophagitis, flatulence, gastritis, gastroesophagitis, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, GGT increase, GI disorder, GI perforation, hepatitis, hepatitis granulomatous, ileus, increased appetite, jaundice, liver damage, esophagitis ulcerative, oral moniliasis, pancreatic pseudocyst, stomatitis

- Cardiovascular: Abnormal ECG, angina pectoris, arrhythmia, atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, bradycardia, cardiac fibrillation, cardiopulmonary failure, congestive heart failure, deep thrombophlebitis, echocardiogram abnormal, electrocardiogram QRS complex abnormal, electrocardiogram ST segment abnormal, heart failure, heart rate decreased, hemorrhage, hypotension, phlebitis, postural hypotension, syncope, tachycardia, thrombosis, vasodilatation
- Urogenital: Acute kidney failure, albuminuria, BK nephropathy, bladder spasm, cystitis, dysuria, hematuria, hydronephrosis, kidney failure, kidney tubular necrosis, nocturia, pyuria, toxic nephropathy, urge incontinence, urinary frequency, urinary incontinence, urinary retention, vaginitis
- Metabolic/Nutritional: Acidosis, alkaline phosphatase increased, alkalosis, ALT (SGPT) increased, AST (SGOT) increased, bicarbonate decreased, bilirubinemia, dehydration, GGT increased, gout, healing abnormal, hypercalcemia, hypercholesterolemia, hyperphosphatemia, hyperuricemia, hypervolemia, hypocalcemia, hypoglycemia, hyponatremia, hypoproteinemia, lactic dehydrogenase increased, weight gain
- Endocrine: Cushing's syndrome
- Hemic/Lymphatic: Coagulation disorder, ecchymosis, hematocrit increased, hypochromic anemia, leukocytosis, polycythemia, prothrombin decreased, serum iron decreased
- Miscellaneous: Abdomen enlarged, abscess, accidental injury, allergic reaction, cellulitis, chills, fall, flu syndrome, generalized edema, hernia, mobility decreased, peritonitis, photosensitivity reaction, sepsis, temperature intolerance, ulcer
- Musculoskeletal: Arthralgia, cramps, generalized spasm, leg cramps, myalgia, myasthenia, osteoporosis
- Respiratory: Asthma, emphysema, hiccups, lung function decreased, pharyngitis, pneumonia, pneumothorax, pulmonary edema, rhinitis, sinusitis, voice alteration
- Skin: Acne, alopecia, exfoliative dermatitis, fungal dermatitis, herpes simplex, herpes zoster, hirsutism, neoplasm skin benign, skin discoloration, skin ulcer, sweating

Lung Transplantation

Adverse reactions in lung transplant patients were similar to those in kidney, liver, or heart transplant patients treated with PROGRAF [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.2\)](#)].

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been reported from worldwide marketing experience with tacrolimus. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure. Decisions to include these reactions in labeling are typically based on one or more of the following factors: (1) seriousness of the reaction, (2) frequency of the reporting, or (3) strength of causal connection to the drug.

Other reactions include:

- Cardiovascular: Atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, cardiac arrhythmia, cardiac arrest, electrocardiogram T wave abnormal, flushing, myocardial infarction, myocardial ischemia, pericardial effusion, QT prolongation, *Torsades de pointes*, venous thrombosis deep limb, ventricular extrasystoles, ventricular fibrillation, myocardial hypertrophy
- Gastrointestinal: Bile duct stenosis, colitis, enterocolitis, gastroenteritis, gastroesophageal reflux disease, hepatic cytolysis, hepatic necrosis, hepatotoxicity, impaired gastric emptying, liver fatty, mouth ulceration, pancreatitis hemorrhagic, pancreatitis necrotizing, stomach ulcer, veno-occlusive liver disease
- Hemic/Lymphatic: Agranulocytosis, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hemolytic anemia, neutropenia, febrile neutropenia, pancytopenia, thrombocytopenic purpura, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, pure red cell aplasia, thrombotic microangiopathy

- Infections: Cases of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), sometimes fatal; polyoma virus-associated nephropathy (PVAN) including graft loss
- Metabolic/Nutritional: Glycosuria, increased amylase including pancreatitis, weight decreased
- Miscellaneous: Feeling hot and cold, feeling jittery, hot flushes, multi-organ failure, primary graft dysfunction
- Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders: Pain in extremity including Calcineurin-Inhibitor Induced Pain Syndrome (CIPS)
- Nervous System: Carpal tunnel syndrome, cerebral infarction, hemiparesis, leukoencephalopathy, mental disorder, mutism, posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES), progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), quadriplegia, speech disorder, syncope
- Respiratory: Acute respiratory distress syndrome, interstitial lung disease, lung infiltration, respiratory distress, respiratory failure
- Skin: Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis
- Special Senses: Blindness, optic neuropathy, blindness cortical, hearing loss including deafness, photophobia
- Urogenital: Acute renal failure, cystitis hemorrhagic, hemolytic-uremic syndrome

Postmarketing Adverse Reactions in Lung Transplantation

Based on U.S. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) data, published clinical trials, and postmarketing reports, the safety profile for lung transplant patients treated with PROGRAF is consistent with the safety profile in kidney, liver, and heart transplant patients treated with PROGRAF. The primary adverse reactions described include renal dysfunction, infection, diabetes, gastrointestinal disturbances (e.g., diarrhea), hypertension, and neurological events (e.g., tremor). As expected, lung transplant patients have a higher incidence of pulmonary complications (e.g., pneumonia, bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome) than other solid organ transplant patients, which is in part due to the underlying disease and to the nature of the transplanted organ.

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

7.1 Mycophenolic Acid

When PROGRAF is prescribed with a given dose of a mycophenolic acid (MPA) product, exposure to MPA is higher with PROGRAF co-administration than with cyclosporine co-administration with MPA, because cyclosporine interrupts the enterohepatic recirculation of MPA while tacrolimus does not. Monitor for MPA-associated adverse reactions and reduce the dose of concomitantly administered mycophenolic acid products as needed.

7.2 Effects of Other Drugs on PROGRAF

[Table 15](#) displays the effects of other drugs on PROGRAF.

Table 15. Effects of Other Drugs/Substances on PROGRAF¹

Drug/Substance Class or Name	Drug Interaction Effect	Recommendations
Grapefruit or grapefruit juice ²	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see Warnings and Precautions (5.6, 5.11, 5.12)].	Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice.
Strong CYP3A Inducers ³ : Antimycobacterials (e.g., rifampin, rifabutin), anticonvulsants (e.g.,	May decrease tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of rejection [see Warnings and Precautions (5.11)].	Increase PROGRAF dose and monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations [see Dosage and Administration

Drug/Substance Class or Name	Drug Interaction Effect	Recommendations
phenytoin, carbamazepine and phenobarbital), St John's wort		(2.2, 2.6) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].
Strong CYP3A Inhibitors ³ : Protease inhibitors (e.g., nelfinavir, telaprevir, boceprevir, ritonavir), azole antifungals (e.g., voriconazole, posaconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole), antibiotics (e.g., clarithromycin, troleandomycin, chloramphenicol), nefazodone, letermovir, <i>Schisandra sphenanthera</i> extracts	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation). A rapid, sharp rise in tacrolimus levels may occur early, despite an immediate reduction of tacrolimus dose [see Warnings and Precautions (5.6, 5.11, 5.12)].	Reduce PROGRAF dose (for voriconazole and posaconazole, give one-third of the original dose) and adjust dose based on tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations [see Dosage and Administration (2.2, 2.6) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]. Early and frequent monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood trough levels should start within 1-3 days and continue monitoring as necessary [see Warnings and Precautions (5.11)].
Mild or Moderate CYP3A Inhibitors: Clotrimazole, antibiotics (e.g., erythromycin, fluconazole), calcium channel blockers (e.g., verapamil, diltiazem, nifedipine, nicardipine), amiodarone, danazol, ethinyl estradiol, cimetidine, lansoprazole and omeprazole	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see Warnings and Precautions (5.6, 5.11, 5.12)].	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and reduce PROGRAF dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.2, 2.6) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].
Other drugs, such as: Magnesium and aluminum hydroxide antacids Metoclopramide	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see Warnings and Precautions (5.6, 5.11, 5.12)].	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and reduce PROGRAF dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.2, 2.6) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].
Mild or Moderate CYP3A Inducers Methylprednisolone, prednisone	May decrease tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations.	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and adjust PROGRAF dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.2, 2.6)].
Caspofungin	May decrease tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations.	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and adjust PROGRAF dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.2, 2.6)].

1. PROGRAF dosage adjustment recommendation based on observed effect of co-administered drug on tacrolimus exposures [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)], literature reports of altered tacrolimus exposures, or the other drug's known CYP3A inhibitor/inducer status.
2. High dose or double strength grapefruit juice is a *strong* CYP3A inhibitor; low dose or single strength grapefruit juice is a *moderate* CYP3A inhibitor.
3. Strong CYP3A inhibitor/inducer, based on reported effect on exposures to tacrolimus along with supporting *in vitro* CYP3A inhibitor/inducer data, or based on drug-drug interaction studies with midazolam (sensitive CYP3A probe substrate).

Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Therapy

The pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus may be impacted by changes in liver function during DAA therapy, related to clearance of HCV virus. Close monitoring and potential dose adjustment of PROGRAF is warranted to ensure continued efficacy and safety [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2, 2.6\)](#)].

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Exposure Registry

There is a pregnancy registry that monitors pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to PROGRAF during pregnancy.

The Transplantation Pregnancy Registry International (TPRI) is a voluntary pregnancy exposure registry that monitors outcomes of pregnancy in female transplant recipients and those fathered by male transplant recipients exposed to immunosuppressants including tacrolimus. Healthcare providers are encouraged to advise their patients to register by contacting the Transplantation Pregnancy Registry International at 1-877-955-6877 or <https://www.transplantpregnancyregistry.org/>.

Risk Summary

Tacrolimus can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Data from postmarketing surveillance and TPRI suggest that infants exposed to tacrolimus *in utero* are at a risk of prematurity, birth defects/congenital anomalies, low birth weight, and fetal distress [see *Human Data*]. Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to the fetus.

Administration of oral tacrolimus to pregnant rabbits and rats throughout the period of organogenesis was associated with maternal toxicity/lethality, and an increased incidence of abortion, malformation and embryofetal death at clinically relevant doses (0.5 to 6.9 times the recommended clinical dose range [0.2 to 0.075 mg/kg/day], on a mg/m² basis). Administration of oral tacrolimus to pregnant rats after organogenesis and throughout lactation produced maternal toxicity, effects on parturition, reduced pup viability and reduced pup weight at clinically relevant doses (0.8 to 6.9 times the recommended clinical dose range, on a mg/m² basis). Administration of oral tacrolimus to rats prior to mating, and throughout gestation and lactation produced maternal toxicity/lethality, marked effects on parturition, embryofetal loss, malformations, and reduced pup viability at clinically relevant doses (0.8 to 6.9 times the recommended clinical dose range, on a mg/m² basis). Interventricular septal defects, hydronephrosis, craniofacial malformations and skeletal effects were observed in offspring that died [see *Animal Data*].

The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in the indicated population is unknown. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively.

Clinical Considerations

Disease-Associated Maternal and/or Embryo-Fetal Risk

Risks during pregnancy are increased in organ transplant recipients.

The risk of premature delivery following transplantation is increased. Pre-existing hypertension and diabetes confer additional risk to the pregnancy of an organ transplant recipient. Pre-gestational and gestational diabetes are associated with birth defects/congenital anomalies, hypertension, low birth weight and fetal death.

Cholestasis of pregnancy (COP) was reported in 7% of liver or liver-kidney (LK) transplant recipients, compared with approximately 1% of pregnancies in the general population. However, COP symptoms resolved postpartum and no long-term effects on the offspring were reported.

Maternal Adverse Reactions

PROGRAF may increase hyperglycemia in pregnant women with diabetes (including gestational diabetes). Monitor maternal blood glucose levels regularly [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)].

PROGRAF may exacerbate hypertension in pregnant women and increase pre-eclampsia. Monitor and control blood pressure [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7, 5.8\)](#)].

Fetal/Neonatal Adverse Reactions

Renal dysfunction, transient neonatal hyperkalemia and low birth weight have been reported at the time of delivery in infants of mothers taking PROGRAF.

Labor or Delivery

There is an increased risk for premature delivery (< 37 weeks) following transplantation and maternal exposure to PROGRAF.

Data

Human Data

There are no adequate and well controlled studies on the effects of tacrolimus in human pregnancy. Safety data from the TPRI and postmarketing surveillance suggest infants exposed to tacrolimus *in utero* have an increased risk for miscarriage, pre-term delivery (< 37 weeks), low birth weight (< 2500 g), birth defects/congenital anomalies and fetal distress.

TPRI reported 450 and 241 total pregnancies in kidney and liver transplant recipients exposed to tacrolimus, respectively. The TPRI pregnancy outcomes are summarized in [Table 16](#). In the table below, the number of recipients exposed to tacrolimus concomitantly with mycophenolic acid (MPA) products during the preconception and first trimester periods is high (27% and 29% for renal and liver transplant recipients, respectively). Because MPA products may also cause birth defects, the birth defect rate may be confounded and this should be taken into consideration when reviewing the data, particularly for birth defects. Birth defects observed include cardiac malformations, craniofacial malformations, renal/urogenital disorders, skeletal abnormalities, neurological abnormalities and multiple malformations.

Table 16. TPRI Reported Pregnancy Outcomes in Transplant Recipients with Exposure to Tacrolimus

	Kidney	Liver
Pregnancy Outcomes¹	462	253
Miscarriage	24.5%	25%
Live births	331	180
Pre-term delivery (< 37 weeks)	49%	42%
Low birth weight (< 2500 g)	42%	30%
Birth defects	8% ²	5%

1. Includes multiple births and terminations.
2. Birth defect rate confounded by concomitant MPA products exposure in over half of offspring with birth defects.

Additional information reported by TPRI in pregnant transplant patients receiving tacrolimus included diabetes during pregnancy in 9% of kidney recipients and 13% of liver recipients, and hypertension during pregnancy in 53% of kidney recipients and 16.2% of liver recipients.

Animal Data

Administration of oral tacrolimus to pregnant rabbits throughout organogenesis produced maternal toxicity and abortion at 0.32 mg/kg (0.5 to 1.4 times the recommended clinical dose range [0.2 to 0.075 mg/kg/day], on a mg/m² basis). At 1 mg/kg (1.6 to 4.3 times the recommended clinical dose range), embryofetal lethality and fetal malformations

(ventricular hypoplasia, interventricular septal defect, bulbous aortic arch, stenosis of ductus arteriosus, omphalocele, gallbladder agenesis, skeletal anomalies) were observed. Administration of 3.2 mg/kg oral tacrolimus (2.6 to 6.9 times the recommended clinical dose range) to pregnant rats throughout organogenesis produced maternal toxicity/lethality, embryofetal lethality and decreased fetal body weight in the offspring of C-sectioned dams; and decreased pup viability and interventricular septal defect in offspring of dams that delivered.

In a peri-/postnatal development study, oral administration of tacrolimus to pregnant rats during late gestation (after organogenesis) and throughout lactation produced maternal toxicity, effects on parturition, and reduced pup viability at 3.2 mg/kg (2.6 to 6.9 times the recommended clinical dose range); among these pups that died early, an increased incidence of kidney hydronephrosis was observed. Reduced pup weight was observed at 1.0 mg/kg (0.8 to 2.2 times the recommended clinical dose range).

Administration of oral tacrolimus to rats prior to mating, and throughout gestation and lactation, produced maternal toxicity/lethality, embryofetal loss and reduced pup viability at 3.2 mg/kg (2.6 to 6.9 times the recommended clinical dose range). Interventricular septal defects, hydronephrosis, craniofacial malformations and skeletal effects were observed in offspring that died. Effects on parturition (incomplete delivery of nonviable pups) were observed at 1 mg/kg (0.8 to 2.2 times the recommended clinical dose range) [*see [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)*].

8.2 Lactation

Risk Summary

Controlled lactation studies have not been conducted in humans; however, tacrolimus has been reported to be present in human milk. The effects of tacrolimus on the breastfed infant, or on milk production have not been assessed. Tacrolimus is excreted in rat milk and in peri-/postnatal rat studies; exposure to tacrolimus during the postnatal period was associated with developmental toxicity in the offspring at clinically relevant doses [*see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1\)](#) and [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)*].

The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for PROGRAF and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from PROGRAF or from the underlying maternal condition.

8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

Contraception

PROGRAF can cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women. Advise female and male patients of reproductive potential to speak to their healthcare provider on family planning options including appropriate contraception prior to starting treatment with PROGRAF [*see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1\)](#) and [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)*].

Infertility

Based on findings in animals, male and female fertility may be compromised by treatment with PROGRAF [*see [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)*].

8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness have been established in pediatric liver, kidney, heart, and lung transplant patients.

Liver Transplantation

Safety and efficacy using PROGRAF Granules in pediatric *de novo* liver transplant patients less than 16 years of age are based on evidence from active controlled studies that included 56 pediatric patients, 31 of which received PROGRAF, and supported by two pharmacokinetic and safety studies in 151 children who received PROGRAF. Additionally, 122

pediatric patients were studied in an uncontrolled trial of tacrolimus in living related donor liver transplantation. Dose adjustments were made in the PK studies based on clinical status and whole blood concentrations. Pediatric patients generally required higher doses of PROGRAF to maintain blood trough concentrations of tacrolimus similar to adult patients [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3\)](#), [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#), [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#) and [Clinical Studies \(14.2\)](#)].

Kidney and Heart Transplantation

Use of PROGRAF capsules and PROGRAF Granules in pediatric kidney and heart transplant patients is supported by adequate and well-controlled studies and pharmacokinetic data in adult kidney and heart transplant patients with additional pharmacokinetic data in pediatric kidney and heart transplant patients and safety data in pediatric liver transplant patients [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3\)](#) and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

Lung Transplantation

The use of PROGRAF capsules and PROGRAF Granules in pediatric lung transplantation is supported by the experience in the U.S. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) including 450 pediatric patients receiving tacrolimus immediate-release products in combination with mycophenolate mofetil and 72 pediatric patients receiving tacrolimus immediate-release products in combination with azathioprine between 1999-2017.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical trials of PROGRAF did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

8.6 Renal Impairment

The pharmacokinetics of PROGRAF in patients with renal impairment was similar to that in healthy volunteers with normal renal function. However, consideration should be given to dosing PROGRAF at the lower end of the therapeutic dosing range in patients who have received a liver or heart transplant and have pre-existing renal impairment. Further reductions in dose below the targeted range may be required [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.4\)](#) and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

8.7 Hepatic Impairment

The mean clearance of tacrolimus was substantially lower in patients with severe hepatic impairment (mean Child-Pugh score: > 10) compared to healthy volunteers with normal hepatic function. Close monitoring of tacrolimus trough concentrations is warranted in patients with hepatic impairment [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

The use of PROGRAF in liver transplant recipients experiencing post-transplant hepatic impairment may be associated with increased risk of developing renal insufficiency related to high whole blood trough concentrations of tacrolimus. These patients should be monitored closely and dosage adjustments should be considered. Some evidence suggests that lower doses should be used in these patients [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.5\)](#) and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

8.8 Race or Ethnicity

African-American patients may need to be titrated to higher dosages to attain comparable trough concentrations compared to Caucasian patients [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#) and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

African-American and Hispanic patients are at increased risk for new onset diabetes after transplant. Monitor blood glucose concentrations and treat appropriately [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)].

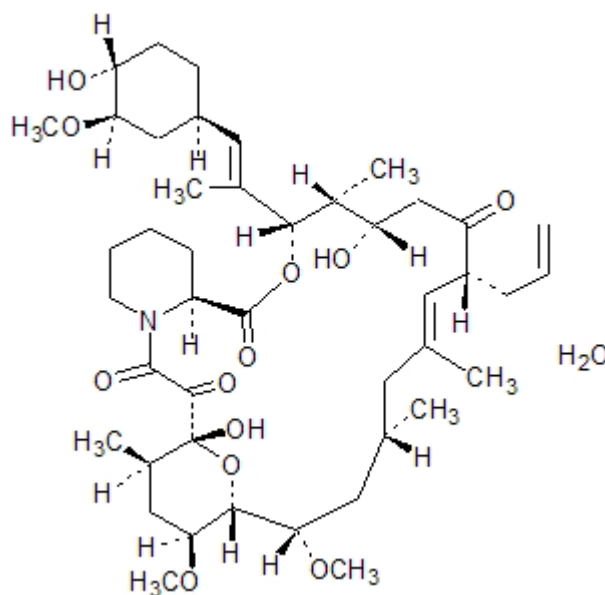
10 OVERDOSAGE

Limited overdose experience is available. Acute overdoses of up to 30 times the intended dose have been reported. Almost all cases have been asymptomatic and all patients recovered with no sequelae. Acute overdose was sometimes followed by adverse reactions consistent with those reported with the use of PROGRAF [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1, 6.2\)](#)], including tremors, abnormal renal function, hypertension, and peripheral edema; in one case of acute overdose, transient urticaria and lethargy were observed. Based on the poor aqueous solubility and extensive erythrocyte and plasma protein binding, it is anticipated that tacrolimus is not dialyzable to any significant extent; there is no experience with charcoal hemoperfusion. The oral use of activated charcoal has been reported in treating acute overdoses, but experience has not been sufficient to warrant recommending its use. General supportive measures and treatment of specific symptoms should be followed in all cases of overdose.

11 DESCRIPTION

Tacrolimus, previously known as FK506, is the active ingredient in PROGRAF. Tacrolimus is a calcineurin-inhibitor immunosuppressant produced by *Streptomyces tsukubaensis*. Chemically, tacrolimus is designated as [3*S*-[3*R**[*E*(1*S**,3*S**,4*S**),4*S**,5*R**,8*S**,9*E*,12*R**,14*R**,15*S**,16*R**,18*S**,19*S**,26*aR**]] - 5,6,8,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,24,25,26,26*a*-hexadecahydro-5,19-dihydroxy-3-[2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxycyclohexyl)-1-methylethenyl]-14,16-dimethoxy-4,10,12,18-tetramethyl-8-(2-propenyl)-15,19-epoxy-3*H*-pyrido[2,1-*c*][1,4]oxaazacyclotricosine-1,7,20,21(4*H*,23*H*)-tetrone, monohydrate.

The chemical structure of tacrolimus is:



Tacrolimus has an empirical formula of $C_{44}H_{69}NO_{12} \cdot H_2O$ and a formula weight of 822.03. Tacrolimus appears as white crystals or crystalline powder. It is practically insoluble in water, freely soluble in ethanol, and very soluble in methanol and chloroform.

PROGRAF is available for oral administration as capsules (tacrolimus capsules USP) containing the equivalent of 0.5 mg, 1 mg or 5 mg of anhydrous tacrolimus USP. Inactive ingredients include croscarmellose sodium NF, hypromellose USP, lactose monohydrate NF, and magnesium stearate NF. The 0.5 mg capsule shell contains ferric oxide NF, gelatin NF and

titanium dioxide USP, the 1 mg capsule shell contains gelatin NF and titanium dioxide USP, and the 5 mg capsule shell contains ferric oxide NF, gelatin NF, and titanium dioxide USP.

PROGRAF is also available as a sterile solution (tacrolimus injection) containing the equivalent of 5 mg anhydrous tacrolimus USP in 1 mL for administration by intravenous infusion only. Each mL contains the following inactive ingredients: dehydrated alcohol USP, 80.0% v/v and polyoxyl 60 hydrogenated castor oil (HCO-60), 200 mg. PROGRAF injection must be diluted with 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection or 5% Dextrose Injection before use.

PROGRAF Granules is available for oral administration as a suspension containing the equivalent of 0.2 mg or 1 mg of anhydrous tacrolimus USP. Inactive ingredients include croscarmellose sodium NF, hypromellose USP, and lactose monohydrate NF.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Tacrolimus binds to an intracellular protein, FKBP-12. A complex of tacrolimus-FKBP-12, calcium, calmodulin, and calcineurin (a ubiquitous mammalian intracellular enzyme) is then formed, after which the phosphatase activity of calcineurin is inhibited. Such inhibition prevents the dephosphorylation and translocation of various factors such as the nuclear factor of activated T-cells (NF-AT), and nuclear factor kappa-light-chain enhancer of activated B-cells (NF-κB).

Tacrolimus inhibits the expression and/or production of several cytokines that include interleukin (IL)-1 beta, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, gamma interferon, tumor necrosis factor-alpha, and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor. Tacrolimus also inhibits IL-2 receptor expression and nitric oxide release, induces apoptosis and production of transforming growth factor beta that can lead to immunosuppressive activity. The net result is the inhibition of T-lymphocyte activation and proliferation, as well as T-helper-cell-dependent B-cell response (i.e., immunosuppression).

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Tacrolimus activity is primarily due to the parent drug. The pharmacokinetic parameters (mean ± S.D.) of tacrolimus have been determined following intravenous (IV) and/or oral (PO) administration in healthy volunteers, and in kidney transplant, liver transplant, and heart transplant patients ([Table 17](#)).

Table 17. Pharmacokinetics Parameters (mean ± S.D.) of Tacrolimus in Healthy Volunteers and Patients

Population	N	Route (Dose)	Parameters					
			C _{max} (ng/mL)	T _{max} (hr)	AUC (ng•hr/mL)	t _{1/2} (hr)	CL (L/hr/kg)	V (L/kg)
Healthy Volunteers	8	IV (0.025 mg/kg/4 hr)	<i>l</i>	<i>l</i>	652 ² ± 156	34.2 ± 7.7	0.040 ± 0.009	1.91 ± 0.31
	30	PO (5 mg) (granules)	35.6 ± 10.9	1.3 ± 0.5	320 ² ± 164	32.1 ± 5.9	³	³
		PO (5 mg) (capsules)	28.8 ± 8.9	1.5 ± 0.7	266 ² ± 95	32.3 ± 8.8	³	³
Kidney Transplant	26	IV (0.02 mg/kg/12 hr)	<i>l</i>	<i>l</i>	294 ² ± 262	18.8 ± 16.7	0.083 ± 0.050	1.41 ± 0.66

Population	N	Route (Dose)	Parameters					
			C _{max} (ng/mL)	T _{max} (hr)	AUC (ng•hr/mL)	t _{1/2} (hr)	CL (L/hr/kg)	V (L/kg)
Patients		PO (0.2 mg/kg/day)	19.2 ± 10.3	3.0	203 ² ± 42	3	3	3
		PO (0.3 mg/kg/day)	24.2 ± 15.8	1.5	288 ² ± 93	3	3	3
Liver Transplant Patients	17	IV (0.05 mg/kg/12 hr)	1	1	3300 ² ± 2130	11.7 ± 3.9	0.053 ± 0.017	0.85 ± 0.30
		PO (0.3 mg/kg/day)	68.5 ± 30.0	2.3 ± 1.5	519 ² ± 179	3	3	3
Heart Transplant Patients	11	IV (0.01 mg/kg/day as a continuous infusion)	1	1	954 ⁴ ± 334	23.6 ± 9.22	0.051 ± 0.015	3
	11	PO (0.075 mg/kg/day) ⁵	14.7 ± 7.79	2.1 [0.5-6.0] ⁶	82.7 ⁷ ± 63.2	1	3	3
	14	PO (0.15 mg/kg/day) ⁵	24.5 ± 13.7	1.5 [0.4-4.0] ⁶	142 ⁷ ± 116	1	3	3

1. Not applicable
2. AUC_{0-inf}
3. Not available
4. AUC_{0-t}
5. Determined after the first dose
6. Median [range]
7. AUC₀₋₁₂

Due to intersubject variability in tacrolimus pharmacokinetics, individualization of the dosing regimen is necessary for optimal therapy [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.6\)](#)]. Pharmacokinetic data indicate that whole blood concentrations rather than plasma concentrations serve as the more appropriate sampling compartment to describe tacrolimus pharmacokinetics.

Absorption

Absorption of tacrolimus from the gastrointestinal tract after oral administration is incomplete and variable. The absolute bioavailability of tacrolimus was 17 ± 10% in adult kidney transplant patients (N = 26), 22 ± 6% in adult liver transplant patients (N = 17), 23 ± 9% in adult heart transplant patients (N = 11) and 18 ± 5% in healthy volunteers (N = 16).

A single dose trial conducted in 32 healthy volunteers established the bioequivalence of the 1 mg and 5 mg capsules. Another single dose trial in 32 healthy volunteers established the bioequivalence of the 0.5 mg and 1 mg capsules. Tacrolimus maximum blood concentrations (C_{max}) and area under the curve (AUC) appeared to increase in a dose-proportional fashion in 18 fasted healthy volunteers receiving a single oral dose of 3, 7, and 10 mg.

In 18 kidney transplant patients, tacrolimus trough concentrations from 3 to 30 ng/mL measured at 10-12 hours post-dose (C_{min}) correlated well with the AUC (correlation coefficient 0.93). In 24 liver transplant patients over a concentration

range of 10 to 60 ng/mL, the correlation coefficient was 0.94. In 25 heart transplant patients over a concentration range of 2 to 24 ng/mL, the correlation coefficient was 0.89 after an oral dose of 0.075 or 0.15 mg/kg/day at steady-state.

In a healthy volunteer adult study, the systemic exposure to tacrolimus (AUC) for PROGRAF Granules was approximately 16% higher than that for PROGRAF capsules when administered as single doses. If pediatric patients are converted between formulations, therapeutic drug monitoring must be performed and dose adjustments made to ensure that systemic exposure to tacrolimus is maintained.

Food Effects

The rate and extent of tacrolimus absorption were greatest under fasted conditions. The presence and composition of food decreased both the rate and extent of tacrolimus absorption when administered to 15 healthy volunteers.

The effect was most pronounced with a high-fat meal (848 kcal, 46% fat): mean AUC and C_{\max} were decreased 37% and 77%, respectively; T_{\max} was lengthened 5-fold. A high-carbohydrate meal (668 kcal, 85% carbohydrate) decreased mean AUC and mean C_{\max} by 28% and 65%, respectively.

In healthy volunteers (N = 16), the time of the meal also affected tacrolimus bioavailability. When given immediately following the meal, mean C_{\max} was reduced 71%, and mean AUC was reduced 39%, relative to the fasted condition. When administered 1.5 hours following the meal, mean C_{\max} was reduced 63%, and mean AUC was reduced 39%, relative to the fasted condition.

In 11 liver transplant patients, PROGRAF administered 15 minutes after a high fat (400 kcal, 34% fat) breakfast, resulted in decreased AUC ($27 \pm 18\%$) and C_{\max} ($50 \pm 19\%$), as compared to a fasted state.

PROGRAF capsules should be taken consistently every day either with or without food because the presence and composition of food decreases the bioavailability of PROGRAF [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.1\)](#)].

Distribution

The plasma protein binding of tacrolimus is approximately 99% and is independent of concentration over a range of 5-50 ng/mL. Tacrolimus is bound mainly to albumin and alpha-1-acid glycoprotein, and has a high level of association with erythrocytes. The distribution of tacrolimus between whole blood and plasma depends on several factors, such as hematocrit, temperature at the time of plasma separation, drug concentration, and plasma protein concentration. In a U.S. trial, the ratio of whole blood concentration to plasma concentration averaged 35 (range 12 to 67).

Elimination

Metabolism

Tacrolimus is extensively metabolized by the mixed-function oxidase system, primarily the cytochrome P-450 system (CYP3A4 and CYP3A5). A metabolic pathway leading to the formation of 8 possible metabolites has been proposed. Demethylation and hydroxylation were identified as the primary mechanisms of biotransformation *in vitro*. The major metabolite identified in incubations with human liver microsomes is 13-demethyl tacrolimus. In *in vitro* studies, a 31-demethyl metabolite has been reported to have the same activity as tacrolimus.

Excretion

The mean clearance following IV administration of tacrolimus is 0.040, 0.083, 0.053, and 0.051 L/hr/kg in healthy volunteers, adult kidney transplant patients, adult liver transplant patients, and adult heart transplant patients, respectively. In man, less than 1% of the dose administered is excreted unchanged in urine.

In a mass balance study of IV-administered radiolabeled tacrolimus to 6 healthy volunteers, the mean recovery of radiolabel was $77.8 \pm 12.7\%$. Fecal elimination accounted for $92.4 \pm 1.0\%$ and the elimination half-life based on radioactivity was 48.1 ± 15.9 hours whereas it was 43.5 ± 11.6 hours based on tacrolimus concentrations. The mean clearance of radiolabel was 0.029 ± 0.015 L/hr/kg and clearance of tacrolimus was 0.029 ± 0.009 L/hr/kg. When administered PO, the mean recovery of the radiolabel was $94.9 \pm 30.7\%$. Fecal elimination accounted for $92.6 \pm 30.7\%$, urinary elimination accounted for $2.3 \pm 1.1\%$ and the elimination half-life based on radioactivity was 31.9 ± 10.5 hours whereas it was 48.4 ± 12.3 hours based on tacrolimus concentrations. The mean clearance of radiolabel was 0.226 ± 0.116 L/hr/kg and clearance of tacrolimus was 0.172 ± 0.088 L/hr/kg.

Specific Populations

Pediatric Patients

PROGRAF capsules Pharmacokinetics in Pediatric Patients

Pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus have been studied in liver transplantation patients, 0.7 to 13.2 years of age. Following IV administration of a 0.037 mg/kg/day dose to 12 pediatric patients, mean terminal half-life, volume of distribution and clearance were 11.5 ± 3.8 hours, 2.6 ± 2.1 L/kg and 0.138 ± 0.071 L/hr/kg, respectively. Following oral administration to 9 patients, mean AUC and C_{max} were 337 ± 167 ng·hr/mL and 48.4 ± 27.9 ng/mL, respectively. The absolute bioavailability was $31 \pm 24\%$.

Pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus have also been studied in kidney transplantation patients, 8.2 ± 2.4 years of age. Following IV infusion of a 0.06 mg/kg/day to 12 pediatric patients (8 male and 4 female), mean terminal half-life and clearance were 10.2 ± 5.0 hours and 0.12 ± 0.04 L/hr/kg, respectively. Following oral administration to the same patients, mean AUC and C_{max} were 181 ± 65 ng·hr/mL and 30 ± 11 ng/mL, respectively. The absolute bioavailability was $19 \pm 14\%$.

Whole blood trough concentrations from 31 patients less than 12 years old showed that pediatric patients needed higher doses than adults to achieve similar tacrolimus trough concentrations [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3\)](#)].

PROGRAF Granules Pharmacokinetics in Pediatric Patients

A multicenter, open-label, single arm, pharmacokinetic study (OPTION, NCT01371331) was conducted using tacrolimus granules for oral suspension in pediatric patients undergoing *de novo* liver, kidney, or heart transplant. After an initial 24-hour continuous IV infusion of tacrolimus (0.025 mg/kg/hour) for 12 hours to 4 days, oral PROGRAF Granules were dosed at 0.3 mg/kg/day in divided doses twice daily. Tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations ranged from 5-15 ng/mL for the first month post-transplant, and 5-10 ng/mL thereafter. Two pharmacokinetic (PK) profiles, AUC, C_{max} , T_{max} and C_{trough} , were taken after the first oral dose (Day 1) and at steady state (Day 7). Subsequent oral doses of PROGRAF Granules were adjusted based on clinical evidence of efficacy, the whole-blood trough levels, and/or occurrence of adverse events. Of 52 patients enrolled, thirty-eight (38) had an evaluable PK profile. The mean pediatric age was 6.1 years for heart transplant, 1.1 years for liver transplant and 3.6 years for kidney transplant. Summary results of PK parameters are presented in [Table 18](#).

Table 18. Summary of Whole Blood PK Parameters of Tacrolimus after Administration of PROGRAF Granules in Pediatric Patients

Population	N (age range)		Parameters			
			AUC _{tau} [hr*ng/mL] mean ± SD	C _{max} [ng/mL] mean ± SD	T _{max} [hr] mean ± SD	C _{trough} [ng/mL] mean ± SD
Heart Transplant Patients	12 (0.58-13 years)	Day 1	224.13 ± 114.30	45.61 ± 19.55	2.95 ± 4.33	12.60 ± 13.40
		Day 7	165.17 ± 39.12	32.69 ± 9.78	0.84 ± 0.44	7.57 ± 1.80

Liver Transplant Patients	14 (0.33-12 years)	Day 1	210.56 ± 84.01	25.11 ± 10.78	2.73 ± 1.84	13.41 ± 7.11
		Day 7	195.08 ± 94.63	30.52 ± 19.35	1.71 ± 1.12	9.71 ± 4.03
Kidney Transplant Patients	12 (2.42-11 years)	Day 1	97.40 ± 36.77	18.04 ± 8.10	1.78 ± 0.88	3.54 ± 1.45
		Day 7	208.32 ± 68.75	36.63 ± 13.97	1.09 ± 0.61	8.92 ± 3.59

Renal and Hepatic Impaired Patients

The mean pharmacokinetic parameters for tacrolimus following single administrations to adult patients with renal and hepatic impairment are given in [Table 19](#).

Table 19. Pharmacokinetics in Renal and Hepatic Impaired Adult Patients

Population (No. of Patients)	Dose	AUC _{0-t} (ng·hr/mL)	t _{1/2} (hr)	V (L/kg)	Cl (L/hr/kg)
Renal Impairment (n = 12)	0.02 mg/kg/4 hr IV	393 ± 123 (t = 60 hr)	26.3 ± 9.2	1.07 ± 0.20	0.038 ± 0.014
Mild Hepatic Impairment (n = 6)	0.02 mg/kg/4 hr IV	367 ± 107 (t = 72 hr)	60.6 ± 43.8 Range: 27.8 – 141	3.1 ± 1.6	0.042 ± 0.02
	7.7 mg PO	488 ± 320 (t = 72 hr)	66.1 ± 44.8 Range: 29.5 – 138	3.7 ± 4.7 ¹	0.034 ± 0.019 ¹
Severe Hepatic Impairment (n = 6, IV)	0.02 mg/kg/4 hr IV (n = 2)	762 ± 204 (t = 120 hr)	198 ± 158 Range: 81 – 436	3.9 ± 1.0	0.017 ± 0.013
	0.01 mg/kg/8 hr IV (n = 4)	289 ± 117 (t = 144 hr)			
(n = 5, PO) ²	8 mg PO (n = 1)	658 (t = 120 hr)	119 ± 35 Range: 85 – 178	3.1 ± 3.4 ¹	0.016 ± 0.011 ¹
	5 mg PO (n = 4)	533 ± 156 (t = 144 hr)			
	4 mg PO (n = 1)				

1. Corrected for bioavailability
2. 1 patient did not receive the PO dose

Patients with Renal Impairment

Tacrolimus pharmacokinetics, following a single IV administration, were determined in 12 patients (7 not on dialysis and 5 on dialysis, serum creatinine of 3.9 ± 1.6 and 12.0 ± 2.4 mg/dL, respectively) prior to their kidney transplant. The pharmacokinetic parameters obtained were similar for both groups. The mean clearance of tacrolimus in patients with renal dysfunction was similar to that in normal volunteers ([Table 19](#)) [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#) and [Use in Specific Populations \(8.6\)](#)].

Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Tacrolimus pharmacokinetics have been determined in six patients with mild hepatic dysfunction (mean Pugh score: 6.2) following single IV and oral administrations. The mean clearance of tacrolimus in patients with mild hepatic dysfunction

was not substantially different from that in normal volunteers (see previous table). Tacrolimus pharmacokinetics were studied in 6 patients with severe hepatic dysfunction (mean Pugh score: > 10). The mean clearance was substantially lower in patients with severe hepatic dysfunction, irrespective of the route of administration [*see [Dosage and Administration \(2.5\)](#) and [Use in Specific Populations \(8.7\)](#)*].

Patients with Cystic Fibrosis

Lower bioavailability of tacrolimus has been reported in patients with cystic fibrosis [*see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2, 2.3\)](#)*].

Racial or Ethnic Groups

The pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus have been studied following single IV and oral administration of PROGRAF to 10 African-American, 12 Latino-American, and 12 Caucasian healthy volunteers. There were no significant pharmacokinetic differences among the three ethnic groups following a 4-hour IV infusion of 0.015 mg/kg. However, after single oral administration of 5 mg, mean (\pm SD) tacrolimus C_{\max} in African-Americans (23.6 ± 12.1 ng/mL) was significantly lower than in Caucasians (40.2 ± 12.6 ng/mL) and the Latino-Americans (36.2 ± 15.8 ng/mL) ($p < 0.01$). Mean $AUC_{0-\infty}$ tended to be lower in African-Americans (203 ± 115 ng·hr/mL) than Caucasians (344 ± 186 ng·hr/mL) and Latino-Americans (274 ± 150 ng·hr/mL). The mean (\pm SD) absolute oral bioavailability (F) in African-Americans ($12 \pm 4.5\%$) and Latino-Americans ($14 \pm 7.4\%$) was significantly lower than in Caucasians ($19 \pm 5.8\%$, $p = 0.011$). There was no significant difference in mean terminal $T_{1/2}$ among the three ethnic groups (range from approximately 25 to 30 hours). A retrospective comparison of African-American and Caucasian kidney transplant patients indicated that African-American patients required higher tacrolimus doses to attain similar trough concentrations [*see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#)*].

Male and Female Patients

A formal trial to evaluate the effect of gender on tacrolimus pharmacokinetics has not been conducted, however, there was no difference in dosing by gender in the kidney transplant trial. A retrospective comparison of pharmacokinetics in healthy volunteers, and in kidney, liver, and heart transplant patients indicated no gender-based differences.

Drug Interaction Studies

Frequent monitoring of whole blood concentrations and appropriate dosage adjustments of tacrolimus are recommended when concomitant use of the following drugs with tacrolimus is initiated or discontinued [*see [Drug Interactions \(7\)](#)*].

- *Telaprevir*: In a single-dose study in 9 healthy volunteers, co-administration of tacrolimus (0.5 mg single dose) with telaprevir (750 mg three times daily for 13 days) increased the tacrolimus dose-normalized C_{\max} by 9.3-fold and AUC by 70-fold compared to tacrolimus alone [*see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)*].
- *Boceprevir*: In a single-dose study in 12 subjects, co-administration of tacrolimus (0.5 mg single dose) with boceprevir (800 mg three times daily for 11 days) increased tacrolimus C_{\max} by 9.9-fold and AUC by 17-fold compared to tacrolimus alone [*see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)*].
- *Nelfinavir*: Based on a clinical study of 5 liver transplant recipients, co-administration of tacrolimus with nelfinavir increased blood concentrations of tacrolimus significantly and, as a result, a reduction in the tacrolimus dose by an average of 16-fold was needed to maintain mean trough tacrolimus blood concentrations of 9.7 ng/mL. It is recommended to avoid concomitant use of PROGRAF and nelfinavir unless the benefits outweigh the risks [*see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)*].
- *Rifampin*: In a study of 6 normal volunteers, a significant decrease in tacrolimus oral bioavailability ($14 \pm 6\%$ vs. $7 \pm 3\%$) was observed with concomitant rifampin administration (600 mg). In addition, there was a significant increase in tacrolimus clearance (0.036 ± 0.008 L/hr/kg vs. 0.053 ± 0.010 L/hr/kg) with concomitant rifampin administration [*see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)*].
- *Magnesium and Aluminum-hydroxide*: In a single-dose crossover study in healthy volunteers, co-administration of tacrolimus and magnesium-aluminum-hydroxide resulted in a 21% increase in the mean tacrolimus AUC and a

10% decrease in the mean tacrolimus C_{\max} relative to tacrolimus administration alone [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

- *Ketoconazole*: In a study of 6 normal volunteers, a significant increase in tacrolimus oral bioavailability ($14 \pm 5\%$ vs. $30 \pm 8\%$) was observed with concomitant ketoconazole administration (200 mg). The apparent oral clearance of tacrolimus during ketoconazole administration was significantly decreased compared to tacrolimus alone (0.430 ± 0.129 L/hr/kg vs. 0.148 ± 0.043 L/hr/kg). Overall, IV clearance of tacrolimus was not significantly changed by ketoconazole co-administration, although it was highly variable between patients [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].
- *Voriconazole* (see complete prescribing information for VFEND): Repeat oral dose administration of voriconazole (400 mg every 12 hours for one day, then 200 mg every 12 hours for 6 days) increased tacrolimus (0.1 mg/kg single dose) C_{\max} and AUC_{τ} in healthy subjects by an average of 2-fold (90% CI: 1.9, 2.5) and 3-fold (90% CI: 2.7, 3.8), respectively [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].
- *Posaconazole* (see complete prescribing information for Noxafil): Repeat oral administration of posaconazole (400 mg twice daily for 7 days) increased tacrolimus (0.05 mg/kg single dose) C_{\max} and AUC in healthy subjects by an average of 2-fold (90% CI: 2.01, 2.42) and 4.5-fold (90% CI 4.03, 5.19), respectively [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].
- *Caspofungin* (see complete prescribing information for CANCIDAS): Caspofungin reduced the blood AUC_{0-12} of tacrolimus by approximately 20%, peak blood concentration (C_{\max}) by 16%, and 12-hour blood concentration (C_{12hr}) by 26% in healthy adult subjects when tacrolimus (2 doses of 0.1 mg/kg 12 hours apart) was administered on the 10th day of CANCIDAS 70 mg daily, as compared to results from a control period in which tacrolimus was administered alone [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)]. The mechanism of interaction has not been confirmed.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenesis

Carcinogenicity studies were conducted in male and female rats and mice. In the 80-week mouse oral study and in the 104-week rat oral study, no relationship of tumor incidence to tacrolimus dosage was found. The highest dose used in the mouse was 3.0 mg/kg/day (0.9 to 2.2 times the AUC at clinical doses of 0.075 to 0.2 mg/kg/day) and in the rat was 5.0 mg/kg/day (0.265 to 0.65 times the AUC at clinical doses of 0.075 to 0.2 mg/kg/day) [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

A 104-week dermal carcinogenicity study was performed in mice with tacrolimus ointment (0.03% - 3%), equivalent to tacrolimus doses of 1.1-118 mg/kg/day or 3.3-354 mg/m²/day. In the study, the incidence of skin tumors was minimal and the topical application of tacrolimus was not associated with skin tumor formation under ambient room lighting. However, a statistically significant elevation in the incidence of pleomorphic lymphoma in high-dose male (25/50) and female animals (27/50) and in the incidence of undifferentiated lymphoma in high-dose female animals (13/50) was noted in the mouse dermal carcinogenicity study. Lymphomas were noted in the mouse dermal carcinogenicity study at a daily dose of 3.5 mg/kg (0.1% tacrolimus ointment). No drug-related tumors were noted in the mouse dermal carcinogenicity study at a daily dose of 1.1 mg/kg (0.03% tacrolimus ointment). The relevance of topical administration of tacrolimus in the setting of systemic tacrolimus use is unknown.

The implications of these carcinogenicity studies to the human condition are limited; doses of tacrolimus were administered that likely induced immunosuppression in these animals, impairing their immune system's ability to inhibit unrelated carcinogenesis.

Mutagenesis

No evidence of genotoxicity was seen in bacterial (*Salmonella* and *E. coli*) or mammalian (Chinese hamster lung-derived cells) *in vitro* assays of mutagenicity, the *in vitro* CHO/HGPRT assay of mutagenicity, or *in vivo* clastogenicity assays performed in mice; tacrolimus did not cause unscheduled DNA synthesis in rodent hepatocytes.

Impairment of Fertility

Tacrolimus, subcutaneously administered to male rats at paternally toxic doses of 2 mg/kg/day (1.6 to 4.3 times the recommended clinical dose range [0.2 to 0.075 mg/kg/day] on a mg/m² basis) or 3 mg/kg/day (2.4 to 6.4 times the recommended clinical dose range), resulted in a dose-related decrease in sperm count. Tacrolimus, administered orally at 1.0 mg/kg (0.8 to 2.2 times the clinical dose range) to male and female rats, prior to and during mating, as well as to dams during gestation and lactation, was associated with embryoletality and adverse effects on female reproduction. Effects on female reproductive function (parturition) and embryoletal effects were indicated by a higher rate of pre- and post-implantation loss and increased numbers of undelivered and nonviable pups. When administered at 3.2 mg/kg (2.6 to 6.9 times the clinical dose range based on body surface area), tacrolimus was associated with maternal and paternal toxicity as well as reproductive toxicity including marked adverse effects on estrus cycles, parturition, pup viability, and pup malformations.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

14.1 Kidney Transplantation

PROGRAF/Azathioprine (AZA)

PROGRAF-based immunosuppression in conjunction with azathioprine and corticosteroids following kidney transplantation was assessed in a randomized, multicenter, non-blinded, prospective trial. There were 412 kidney transplant patients enrolled at 19 clinical sites in the United States. Study therapy was initiated when renal function was stable as indicated by a serum creatinine \leq 4 mg/dL (median of 4 days after transplantation, range 1 to 14 days). Patients less than 6 years of age were excluded.

There were 205 patients randomized to PROGRAF-based immunosuppression and 207 patients were randomized to cyclosporine-based immunosuppression. All patients received prophylactic induction therapy consisting of an antilymphocyte antibody preparation, corticosteroids, and azathioprine. Overall, 1-year patient and graft survivals were 96.1% and 89.6%, respectively.

Data from this trial of PROGRAF in conjunction with azathioprine indicate that during the first 3 months of that trial, 80% of the patients maintained trough concentrations between 7-20 ng/mL, and then between 5-15 ng/mL, through 1 year.

PROGRAF/Mycophenolate Mofetil (MMF)

PROGRAF-based immunosuppression in conjunction with MMF, corticosteroids, and induction has been studied. In a randomized, open-label, multicenter trial (Study 1), 1589 kidney transplant patients received PROGRAF (Group C, n = 401), sirolimus (Group D, n = 399), or one of two cyclosporine (CsA) regimens (Group A, n = 390 and Group B, n = 399) in combination with MMF and corticosteroids; all patients, except those in one of the two cyclosporine groups, also received induction with daclizumab. The trial was conducted outside the United States; the trial population was 93% Caucasian. In this trial, mortality at 12 months in patients receiving PROGRAF/MMF was similar (3%) compared to patients receiving cyclosporine/MMF (3% and 2%) or sirolimus/MMF (3%). Patients in the PROGRAF group exhibited higher estimated creatinine clearance rates (eCL_{cr}) using the Cockcroft-Gault formula ([Table 20](#)) and experienced fewer efficacy failures, defined as biopsy-proven acute rejection (BPARG), graft loss, death, and/or loss to follow-up ([Table 21](#)) in comparison to each of the other three groups. Patients randomized to PROGRAF/MMF were more likely to develop diarrhea and diabetes after the transplantation and experienced similar rates of infections compared to patients randomized to either cyclosporine/MMF regimen [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

Table 20. Estimated Creatinine Clearance at 12 Months (Study 1)

Group	eCL _{cr} [mL/min] at Month 12 ¹				
	N	MEAN	SD	MEDIAN	Treatment Difference with Group C (99.2% CI ²)
(A) CsA/MMF/CS	390	56.5	25.8	56.9	-8.6 (-13.7, -3.7)
(B) CsA/MMF/CS/Daclizumab	399	58.9	25.6	60.9	-6.2 (-11.2, -1.2)
(C) Tac/MMF/CS/Daclizumab	401	65.1	27.4	66.2	-
(D) Siro/MMF/CS/Daclizumab	399	56.2	27.4	57.3	-8.9 (-14.1, -3.9)
Total	1589	59.2	26.8	60.5	

Key: CsA = Cyclosporine, CS = Corticosteroids, Tac = Tacrolimus, Siro = Sirolimus

- All death/graft loss (n = 41, 27, 23, and 42 in Groups A, B, C, and D) and patients whose last recorded creatinine values were prior to month 3 visit (n = 10, 9, 7, and 9 in Groups A, B, C, and D, respectively) were imputed with Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) of 10 mL/min; a subject's last observed creatinine value from month 3 on was used for the remainder of subjects with missing creatinine at month 12 (n = 11, 12, 15, and 19 for Groups A, B, C, and D, respectively). Weight was also imputed in the calculation of estimated GFR, if missing.
- Adjusted for multiple (6) pairwise comparisons using Bonferroni corrections.

Table 21. Incidence of BPAR, Graft Loss, Death, or Loss to Follow-up at 12 Months (Study 1)

	Group A N = 390	Group B N = 399	Group C N = 401	Group D N = 399
Overall Failure	141 (36.2%)	126 (31.6%)	82 (20.4%)	185 (46.4%)
Components of efficacy failure				
BPAR	113 (29.0%)	106 (26.6%)	60 (15.0%)	152 (38.1%)
Graft loss excluding death	28 (7.2%)	20 (5.0%)	12 (3.0%)	30 (7.5%)
Mortality	13 (3.3%)	7 (1.8%)	11 (2.7%)	12 (3.0%)
Lost to follow-up	5 (1.3%)	7 (1.8%)	5 (1.3%)	6 (1.5%)
Treatment Difference of efficacy failure compared to Group C (99.2% CI ¹)	15.8% (7.1%, 24.3%)	11.2% (2.7%, 19.5%)	-	26.0% (17.2%, 34.7%)

Key: Group A = CsA/MMF/CS, B = CsA/MMF/CS/Daclizumab, C = Tac/MMF/CS/Daclizumab, and D = Siro/MMF/CS/Daclizumab

- Adjusted for multiple (6) pairwise comparisons using Bonferroni corrections.

The protocol-specified target tacrolimus trough concentrations ($C_{\text{troughs,Tac}}$) were 3-7 ng/mL; however, the observed median $C_{\text{troughs,Tac}}$ approximated 7 ng/mL throughout the 12-month trial (Table 22). Approximately 80% of patients maintained tacrolimus whole blood concentrations between 4-11 ng/mL through 1 year post-transplant.

Table 22. Tacrolimus Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range (Study 1)

Time	Median (P10-P90 ¹) tacrolimus whole blood trough concentration range (ng/mL)
Day 30 (N = 366)	6.9 (4.4 – 11.3)
Day 90 (N = 351)	6.8 (4.1 – 10.7)
Day 180 (N = 355)	6.5 (4.0 – 9.6)
Day 365 (N = 346)	6.5 (3.8 – 10.0)

- 10 to 90th Percentile: range of $C_{\text{troughs,Tac}}$ that excludes lowest 10% and highest 10% of $C_{\text{troughs,Tac}}$

The protocol-specified target cyclosporine trough concentrations ($C_{\text{troughs,CsA}}$) for Group B were 50-100 ng/mL; however, the observed median $C_{\text{troughs,CsA}}$ approximated 100 ng/mL throughout the 12-month trial. The protocol-specified target

$C_{\text{troughs,CsA}}$ for Group A were 150-300 ng/mL for the first 3 months and 100-200 ng/mL from month 4 to month 12; the observed median $C_{\text{troughs,CsA}}$ approximated 225 ng/mL for the first 3 months and 140 ng/mL from month 4 to month 12.

While patients in all groups started MMF at 1 gram twice daily, the MMF dose was reduced to less than 2 g per day in 63% of patients in the tacrolimus treatment arm by month 12 ([Table 23](#)); approximately 50% of these MMF dose reductions were due to adverse reactions. By comparison, the MMF dose was reduced to less than 2 g per day in 49% and 45% of patients in the two cyclosporine arms (Group A and Group B, respectively), by month 12 and approximately 40% of MMF dose reductions were due to adverse reactions.

Table 23. MMF Dose Over Time in PROGRAF/MMF (Group C) (Study 1)

Time period (Days)	Time-averaged MMF dose (grams per day) ¹		
	Less than 2.0	2.0	Greater than 2.0
0-30 (N = 364)	37%	60%	2%
0-90 (N = 373)	47%	51%	2%
0-180 (N = 377)	56%	42%	2%
0-365 (N = 380)	63%	36%	1%

Key: Time-averaged MMF dose = (total MMF dose)/(duration of treatment)

1. Percentage of patients for each time-averaged MMF dose range during various treatment periods. Administration of 2 g per day of time-averaged MMF dose means that MMF dose was not reduced in those patients during the treatment periods.

In a second randomized, open-label, multicenter trial (Study 2), 424 kidney transplant patients received PROGRAF (N = 212) or cyclosporine (N = 212) in combination with MMF 1 gram twice daily, basiliximab induction, and corticosteroids. In this trial, the rate for the combined endpoint of BPAR, graft failure, death, and/or lost to follow-up at 12 months in the PROGRAF/MMF group was similar to the rate in the cyclosporine/MMF group. There was, however, an imbalance in mortality at 12 months in those patients receiving PROGRAF/MMF (4%) compared to those receiving cyclosporine/MMF (2%), including cases attributed to over-immunosuppression ([Table 24](#)).

Table 24. Incidence of BPAR, Graft Loss, Death, or Loss to Follow-up at 12 Months (Study 2)

	PROGRAF/MMF (N = 212)	Cyclosporine/MMF (N = 212)
Overall Failure	32 (15.1%)	36 (17.0%)
Components of efficacy failure		
BPAR	16 (7.5%)	29 (13.7%)
Graft loss excluding death	6 (2.8%)	4 (1.9%)
Mortality	9 (4.2%)	5 (2.4%)
Lost to follow-up	4 (1.9%)	1 (0.5%)
Treatment Difference of efficacy failure compared to PROGRAF/MMF group (95% CI ¹)		1.9% (-5.2%, 9.0%)

1. 95% confidence interval calculated using Fisher's Exact Test.

The protocol-specified target tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations ($C_{\text{trough,Tac}}$) in Study 2 were 7-16 ng/mL for the first three months and 5-15 ng/mL thereafter. The observed median $C_{\text{troughs,Tac}}$ approximated 10 ng/mL during the first three months and 8 ng/mL from month 4 to month 12 ([Table 25](#)). Approximately 80% of patients maintained tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations between 6 to 16 ng/mL during months 1 through 3 and, then, between 5 to 12 ng/mL from month 4 through 1 year.

Table 25. Tacrolimus Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range (Study 2)

Time	Median (P10-P90 ¹) tacrolimus whole blood trough concentration range (ng/mL)
Day 30 (N = 174)	10.5 (6.3 – 16.8)
Day 60 (N = 179)	9.2 (5.9 – 15.3)
Day 120 (N = 176)	8.3 (4.6 – 13.3)
Day 180 (N = 171)	7.8 (5.5 – 13.2)
Day 365 (N = 178)	7.1 (4.2 – 12.4)

1. 10 to 90th Percentile: range of C_{trough,Tac} that excludes lowest 10% and highest 10% of C_{trough,Tac}.

The protocol-specified target cyclosporine whole blood concentrations (C_{trough,CsA}) were 125 to 400 ng/mL for the first three months, and 100 to 300 ng/mL thereafter. The observed median C_{troughs,CsA} approximated 280 ng/mL during the first three months and 190 ng/mL from month 4 to month 12.

Patients in both groups started MMF at 1 gram twice daily. The MMF dose was reduced to less than 2 grams per day by month 12 in 62% of patients in the PROGRAF/MMF group (Table 26) and in 47% of patients in the cyclosporine/MMF group. Approximately 63% and 55% of these MMF dose reductions were because of adverse reactions in the PROGRAF/MMF group and the cyclosporine/MMF group, respectively [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

Table 26. MMF Dose Over Time in the PROGRAF/MMF Group (Study 2)

Time period (Days)	Time-averaged MMF dose (g/day) ¹		
	Less than 2.0	2.0	Greater than 2.0
0-30 (N = 212)	25%	69%	6%
0-90 (N = 212)	41%	53%	6%
0-180 (N = 212)	52%	41%	7%
0-365 (N = 212)	62%	34%	4%

Key: Time-averaged MMF dose = (total MMF dose)/(duration of treatment)

1. Percentage of patients for each time-averaged MMF dose range during various treatment periods. Two grams per day of time-averaged MMF dose means that the MMF dose was not reduced in those patients during the treatment periods.

14.2 Liver Transplantation

The safety and efficacy of PROGRAF-based immunosuppression following orthotopic liver transplantation were assessed in two prospective, randomized, non-blinded multicenter trials. The active control groups were treated with a cyclosporine-based immunosuppressive regimen (CsA/AZA). Both trials used concomitant adrenal corticosteroids as part of the immunosuppressive regimens. These trials compared patient and graft survival rates at 12 months following transplantation.

In one trial, 529 patients were enrolled at 12 clinical sites in the United States; prior to surgery, 263 were randomized to the PROGRAF-based immunosuppressive regimen and 266 to the CsA/AZA. In 10 of the 12 sites, the same CsA/AZA protocol was used, while 2 sites used different control protocols. This trial excluded patients with renal dysfunction, fulminant hepatic failure with Stage IV encephalopathy, and cancers; pediatric patients (≤ 12 years old) were allowed.

In the second trial, 545 patients were enrolled at 8 clinical sites in Europe; prior to surgery, 270 were randomized to the PROGRAF-based immunosuppressive regimen and 275 to CsA/AZA. In this trial, each center used its local standard CsA/AZA protocol in the active-control arm. This trial excluded pediatric patients, but did allow enrollment of subjects with renal dysfunction, fulminant hepatic failure in Stage IV encephalopathy, and cancers other than primary hepatic with metastases.

One-year patient survival and graft survival in the PROGRAF-based treatment groups were similar to those in the CsA/AZA treatment groups in both trials. The overall 1-year patient survival (CsA/AZA and PROGRAF-based treatment groups combined) was 88% in the U.S. trial and 78% in the European trial. The overall 1-year graft survival (CsA/AZA and PROGRAF-based treatment groups combined) was 81% in the U.S. trial and 73% in the European trial. In both trials, the median time to convert from IV to oral PROGRAF dosing was 2 days.

Although there is a lack of direct correlation between tacrolimus concentrations and drug efficacy, data from clinical trials of liver transplant patients have shown an increasing incidence of adverse reactions with increasing trough blood concentrations. Most patients are stable when trough whole blood concentrations are maintained between 5 to 20 ng/mL. Long-term post-transplant patients are often maintained at the low end of this target range.

Data from the U.S. clinical trial show that the median trough blood concentrations, measured at intervals from the second week to one year post-transplantation, ranged from 9.8 ng/mL to 19.4 ng/mL.

Pediatric Liver Transplantation Using PROGRAF Granules

The efficacy and safety of PROGRAF Granules plus corticosteroids were compared with a triple regimen of cyclosporine/corticosteroids/azathioprine in a randomized, open-label study, in *de novo* pediatric liver transplant patients. The study was conducted outside the United States and enrolled patients aged 16 years or younger. The distribution of pediatric patients by age was similar in both treatment groups, with a majority < 5 years. Patients were randomized to either tacrolimus for oral suspension 0.3 mg/kg/day (N = 91) or cyclosporine 10 mg/kg/day orally (N = 90) initiated 6 hours after completion of transplant surgery. Doses throughout the 1-year study period were adjusted to maintain whole blood trough levels within 5-20 ng/mL [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3\)](#)]. Based on trough levels, doses of tacrolimus were adjusted to 0.17 mg/kg/day and 0.14 mg/kg/day by days 2 and 3, respectively. At 12 months, the incidence rate of BPAR, graft loss, death, or loss to follow-up was 52.7% in the tacrolimus group and 61.1% in the cyclosporine group ([Table 27](#)).

Table 27. Key Efficacy Results at 12 Months in Pediatric Liver Transplant Recipients Receiving PROGRAF Granules or Cyclosporine

	PROGRAF Granules (N = 91)	Cyclosporine (N = 90)
Overall Failure	48 (52.7%)	55 (61.1%)
Components of efficacy failure		
BPAR	40 (44.0%)	49 (54.4%)
Graft loss	7 (7.7%)	13 (14.4%)
Graft loss excluding death	1 (1.1%)	6 (6.7%)
Mortality	6 (6.6%)	7 (7.8%)
Lost to follow-up	2 (2.2%)	0
Treatment Difference of efficacy failure compared to cyclosporine (95% CI ¹)	-8.4% (-22.7%, 6.0%)	

1. 95% confidence interval calculated using normal approximation.

14.3 Heart Transplantation

Two open-label, randomized, comparative trials evaluated the safety and efficacy of PROGRAF-based and cyclosporine-based immunosuppression in primary orthotopic heart transplantation. In a trial conducted in Europe, 314 patients received a regimen of antibody induction, corticosteroids, and azathioprine in combination with PROGRAF or cyclosporine modified for 18 months. In a 3-arm trial conducted in the U.S., 331 patients received corticosteroids and PROGRAF plus sirolimus, PROGRAF plus mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) or cyclosporine modified plus MMF for 1 year.

In the European trial, patient/graft survival at 18 months post-transplant was similar between treatment arms, 92% in the tacrolimus group and 90% in the cyclosporine group. In the U.S. trial, patient and graft survival at 12 months was similar with 93% survival in the PROGRAF plus MMF group and 86% survival in the cyclosporine modified plus MMF group. In the European trial, the cyclosporine trough concentrations were above the pre-defined target range (i.e., 100 to 200 ng/mL) at Day 122 and beyond in 32% to 68% of the patients in the cyclosporine treatment arm, whereas the tacrolimus trough concentrations were within the pre-defined target range (i.e., 5 to 15 ng/mL) in 74% to 86% of the patients in the tacrolimus treatment arm. Data from this European trial indicate that from 1 week to 3 months post-transplant, approximately 80% of patients maintained trough concentrations between 8 to 20 ng/mL and, from 3 months through 18 months post-transplant, approximately 80% of patients maintained trough concentrations between 6 to 18 ng/mL.

The U.S. trial contained a third arm of a combination regimen of sirolimus, 2 mg per day, and full-dose PROGRAF; however, this regimen was associated with increased risk of wound-healing complications, renal function impairment, and insulin-dependent post-transplant diabetes mellitus, and is not recommended [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.10\)](#)].

14.4 Lung Transplantation


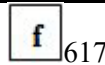
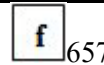
The efficacy and safety of PROGRAF-based immunosuppression in primary lung transplantation were assessed in a non-interventional (observational) study using data from the U.S. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR). The study analyzed outcomes based on discharge immunosuppression treatment regimen in recipients of a primary lung transplant between 1999 and 2017 who were alive at the time of discharge. In adult patients receiving tacrolimus immediate-release products in combination with MMF (n=15,478) or tacrolimus immediate-release products in combination with AZA (n=4,263), the one-year graft survival estimates from time of discharge were 90.9% and 90.8%, respectively. In pediatric patients receiving tacrolimus immediate-release products in combination with MMF (n= 450) or tacrolimus immediate-release products in combination with AZA (n=72), the one-year graft survival estimates from time of discharge were 91.7% and 84.7%, respectively.

15 REFERENCES

1. “OSHA Hazardous Drugs.” OSHA. <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardousdrugs/index.html>

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

16.1 PROGRAF (tacrolimus) Capsules, USP

Strength	0.5 mg (containing the equivalent of 0.5 mg anhydrous tacrolimus USP)	1 mg (containing the equivalent of 1 mg anhydrous tacrolimus USP)	5 mg (containing the equivalent of 5 mg anhydrous tacrolimus USP)
Shape/color	oblong/light yellow	oblong/white	oblong/grayish red
Branding on capsule cap/body			
100 count bottle	NDC 0469-0607-73	NDC 0469-0617-73	NDC 0469-0657-73

Note: PROGRAF capsules USP are not filled to maximum capsule capacity. Capsule contains labeled amount.

Store and Dispense

Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].

16.2 PROGRAF (tacrolimus) Injection

(for Intravenous infusion only)

NDC 0469-3016-01 Product Code 301601

5 mg/mL (equivalent of 5 mg of anhydrous tacrolimus USP per mL) supplied as a sterile solution in a 1 mL ampule, in boxes of 10 ampules

Store and Dispense

Store between 5°C and 25°C (41°F and 77°F).

16.3 PROGRAF Granules (tacrolimus for oral suspension)

Strength	0.2 mg (containing the equivalent of 0.2 mg anhydrous tacrolimus USP)	1 mg (containing the equivalent of 1 mg anhydrous tacrolimus USP)
Shape/color	White granules	White granules
1 carton containing 50 packets	NDC 0469-1230-50	NDC 0469-1330-50

Store and Dispense

Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].

16.4 Handling and Disposal

Tacrolimus can cause fetal harm. PROGRAF capsules should not be opened or crushed. Wearing disposable gloves is recommended during dilution of the injection or when preparing the oral suspension in the hospital and when wiping any spills. Avoid inhalation or direct contact with skin or mucous membranes of the powder or granules contained in PROGRAF capsules and PROGRAF Granules, respectively. If such contact occurs, wash the skin thoroughly with soap and water; if ocular contact occurs, rinse eyes with water. In case a spill occurs, wipe the surface with a wet paper towel. Follow applicable special handling and disposal procedures¹.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Patient Information and Instructions for Use).

17.1 Administration

Advise the patient or caregiver to:

- Inspect their PROGRAF medicine when they receive a new prescription and before taking it. If the appearance of the capsule is not the same as usual, or if dosage instructions have changed, advise patients to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible to make sure that they have the right medicine. Other tacrolimus products cannot be substituted for PROGRAF.
- Take PROGRAF at the same 12-hour intervals every day to achieve consistent blood concentrations.
- Take PROGRAF consistently either with or without food because the presence and composition of food decreases the bioavailability of PROGRAF.
- Not to eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice in combination with PROGRAF [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].
- If the patient is receiving PROGRAF Granules, advise that the dose should be given immediately after preparation and not to save the dose for later. Advise the caregiver to carefully read the Instructions for Use.

17.2 Development of Lymphoma and Other Malignancies

Inform patients they are at increased risk of developing lymphomas and other malignancies, particularly of the skin, due to immunosuppression. Advise patients to limit exposure to sunlight and ultraviolet (UV) light by wearing protective clothing and using a broad spectrum sunscreen with a high protection factor [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

17.3 Increased Risk of Infection

Inform patients they are at increased risk of developing a variety of infections, including opportunistic infections, due to immunosuppression and to contact their physician if they develop any symptoms of infection such as fever, sweats or chills, cough or flu-like symptoms, muscle aches, or warm, red, painful areas on the skin [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)].

17.4 New Onset Diabetes After Transplant

Inform patients that PROGRAF can cause diabetes mellitus and should be advised to contact their physician if they develop frequent urination, increased thirst, or hunger [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)].

17.5 Nephrotoxicity

Inform patients that PROGRAF can have toxic effects on the kidney that should be monitored. Advise patients to attend all visits and complete all blood tests ordered by their medical team [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)].

17.6 Neurotoxicity

Inform patients that they are at risk of developing adverse neurologic reactions including seizure, altered mental status, and tremor. Advise patients to contact their physician should they develop vision changes, delirium, or tremors [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)].

17.7 Hyperkalemia

Inform patients that PROGRAF can cause hyperkalemia. Monitoring of potassium levels may be necessary, especially with concomitant use of other drugs known to cause hyperkalemia [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7\)](#)].

17.8 Hypertension

Inform patients that PROGRAF can cause high blood pressure which may require treatment with antihypertensive therapy. Advise patients to monitor their blood pressure [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8\)](#)].

17.9 Thrombotic Microangiopathy

Inform patients that PROGRAF can cause blood clotting problems. The risk of this occurring increases when patients take PROGRAF and sirolimus or everolimus concomitantly, or when patients develop certain infections. Advise them to seek medical attention promptly if they develop fever, petechiae or bruises, fatigue, confusion, jaundice, oliguria. [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.16\)](#)]

17.10 Drug Interactions

Instruct patients to tell their healthcare providers when they start or stop taking any medicines, including prescription medicines and nonprescription medicines, natural or herbal remedies, nutritional supplements, and vitamins. Advise patients to avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice [see [Drug Interactions \(7\)](#)].

17.11 Pregnancy, Lactation and Infertility

Inform women of childbearing potential that PROGRAF can harm the fetus. Instruct male and female patients to discuss with their healthcare provider family planning options including appropriate contraception. Also, discuss with pregnant patients the risks and benefits of breastfeeding their infant [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1, 8.2, 8.3\)](#)].

Encourage female transplant patients who become pregnant and male patients who have fathered a pregnancy, exposed to immunosuppressants including tacrolimus, to enroll in the voluntary Transplantation Pregnancy Registry International. To enroll or register, patients can call the toll free number 1-877-955-6877 or <https://www.transplantpregnancyregistry.org/> [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1\)](#)].

Based on animal studies, PROGRAF may affect fertility in males and females [see [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)].

17.12 Myocardial Hypertrophy

Inform patients to report symptoms of tiredness, swelling, and/or shortness of breath (heart failure).

17.13 Immunizations

Inform patients that PROGRAF can interfere with the usual response to immunizations and that they should avoid live vaccines. [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.14\)](#)].

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Northbrook, IL 60062

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341124-PRG

Patient Information

PROGRAF® (PRO-graf) (tacrolimus) capsules, for oral use
PROGRAF® (PRO-graf) Granules (tacrolimus for oral suspension)

Read this Patient Information before you start taking PROGRAF and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about PROGRAF?

PROGRAF can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Increased risk of cancer.** People who take PROGRAF have an increased risk of getting some kinds of cancer, including skin and lymph gland cancer (lymphoma).
- **Increased risk of infection.** PROGRAF is a medicine that affects your immune system. PROGRAF can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections. Serious infections can happen in people receiving PROGRAF that can cause death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of an infection, including:**
 - fever
 - muscle aches
 - sweats or chills
 - warm, red, or painful areas on your skin
 - cough or flu-like symptoms

What is PROGRAF?

- PROGRAF is a prescription medicine used with other medicines to help prevent organ rejection in people who have had a kidney, liver, heart, or lung transplant.
- PROGRAF capsules and PROGRAF GRANULES are types of tacrolimus immediate-release drugs 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.

Who should not take PROGRAF?

Do not take PROGRAF if you:

- are allergic to tacrolimus or any of the ingredients in PROGRAF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in PROGRAF.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking PROGRAF?

Before taking PROGRAF, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- plan to receive any vaccines. People taking PROGRAF should not receive live vaccines.
- have or have had liver, kidney, or heart problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. PROGRAF can harm your unborn baby.
 - If you are able to become pregnant, you should use effective birth control before and during treatment with PROGRAF. Talk to your healthcare provider before starting treatment with PROGRAF about birth control methods that may be right for you.
 - Males who have female partners who are able to become pregnant should also use effective birth control before and during treatment with PROGRAF. Talk to your healthcare provider before starting treatment with PROGRAF about birth control methods that may be right for you.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for females who become pregnant and males who have fathered a pregnancy during treatment with PROGRAF. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. To enroll in this voluntary registry, call 1-877-955-6877 or go to <https://www.transplantpregnancyregistry.org/>.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. PROGRAF passes into your breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will breastfeed while taking PROGRAF.
- plan to have children. PROGRAF may affect the ability to have children in females and males (fertility problems).

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, and when you start a new medicine or stop taking a medicine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, natural, herbal, or nutritional supplements.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- sirolimus (RAPAMUNE): You should not take PROGRAF if you take sirolimus
- cyclosporine (GENGRAF, NEORAL, and SANDIMMUNE)
- medicines called aminoglycosides that are used to treat bacterial infections
- ganciclovir (CYTOVENE IV, VALCYTE)

- amphotericin B (ABELCET, AMBISOME)
- cisplatin
- antiviral medicines called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors
- antiviral medicines called protease inhibitors
- water pill (diuretic)
- medicine to treat high blood pressure
- nelfinavir (VIRACEPT)
- telaprevir (INCIVEK)
- boceprevir
- ritonavir (KALETRA, NORVIR, TECHNIVIE, VIEKIRA PAK, VIEKIRA XR)
- letermovir (PREVYMIS)
- ketoconazole
- itraconazole (ONMEL, SPORANOX)
- voriconazole (VFEND)
- caspofungin (CANCIDAS)
- clarithromycin (BIAXIN, BIAXIN XL, PREVPAC)
- rifampin (RIFADIN, RIFAMATE, RIFATER, RIMACTANE)
- rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN)
- amiodarone (NEXTERONE, PACERONE)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if you take any of the medicines listed above. PROGRAF may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how PROGRAF works. Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take PROGRAF?

- Take PROGRAF exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Your healthcare provider will tell you how much PROGRAF to take and when to take it. Your healthcare provider may change your PROGRAF dose if needed. **Do not** stop taking or change your dose of PROGRAF without talking to your healthcare provider.
- Take PROGRAF with or without food.
- Take PROGRAF the same way every day. For example, if you choose to take PROGRAF with food, you should always take PROGRAF with food.
- Take PROGRAF at the same time each day, 12 hours apart. For example, if you take your first dose at 7:00 a.m., you should take your second dose at 7:00 p.m.
- Taking PROGRAF at the same time each day helps to keep the amount of medicine in your body at a steady level.
- If you take too much PROGRAF, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

PROGRAF capsules:

- **Do not** open or crush PROGRAF capsules.

PROGRAF Granules:

- Children who have trouble swallowing capsules can be given PROGRAF Granules.
- Give the dose of PROGRAF Granules right after preparing. Do not save prepared PROGRAF Granules as a liquid to take at a later time.
- **See the Instructions for Use at the end of this Patient Information** for detailed instructions about how to mix and give PROGRAF Granules as a liquid in a glass cup or oral syringe.
- If you get the granules or prepared oral suspension on your skin, wash the area well with soap and water.
- If you get the granules or prepared oral suspension in your eyes, rinse with plain water.

What should I avoid while taking PROGRAF?

- While you take PROGRAF you should not receive any live vaccines.
- Limit the amount of time you spend in sunlight and avoid exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light, such as tanning machines. Wear protective clothing and use a sunscreen with a high sun protection factor (SPF).
- **Do not** eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice during treatment with PROGRAF.

What are the possible side effects of PROGRAF?

PROGRAF may cause serious side effects, including:

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about PROGRAF?”**
- **problems from medicine errors.** People who take PROGRAF have sometimes been given the wrong type of tacrolimus product. **Tacrolimus extended-release medicines are not the same as PROGRAF capsules or**

granules and cannot be substituted for each other. **Check your PROGRAF when you get a new prescription and before you take it to make sure you have received PROGRAF capsules or PROGRAF Granules.**

- Check with the pharmacist and call your healthcare provider if you think you were given the wrong medicine.
- **high blood sugar (diabetes).** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check for diabetes while you take PROGRAF. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of high blood sugar, including:
 - frequent urination
 - increased thirst or hunger
 - blurred vision
 - confusion
 - drowsiness
 - loss of appetite
 - fruity smell on your breath
 - nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain
- **kidney problems.** Kidney problems are a serious and common side effect of PROGRAF. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidney function while you take PROGRAF.
- **nervous system problems.** Nervous system problems are a serious and common side effect of PROGRAF. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms while taking PROGRAF. These could be signs of a serious nervous system problem:
 - headache
 - confusion
 - seizures
 - changes in your vision
 - changes in behavior
 - coma
 - tremors
 - numbness and tingling
- **high levels of potassium in your blood.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your potassium level while you take PROGRAF.
- **high blood pressure.** High blood pressure is a serious and common side effect of PROGRAF. Your healthcare provider will monitor your blood pressure while you take PROGRAF and may prescribe blood pressure medicine for you, if needed. Your healthcare provider may instruct you to check your blood pressure at home.
- **changes in the electrical activity of your heart (QT prolongation).**
- **heart problems (myocardial hypertrophy).** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms of heart problems while taking PROGRAF:
 - shortness of breath
 - chest pain
 - feel lightheaded
 - feel faint
- **severe low red blood cell count (anemia).**
- **blood clotting problems:** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have fever and bruising under the skin that may appear as red dots, with or without unexplained tiredness, confusion, yellowing of the skin or eyes, decreased urination. When taken with sirolimus or everolimus, the risk of developing these symptoms may increase.

The most common side effects of PROGRAF in people who have received a kidney, liver, heart, or lung transplant are:

- infections in general, including cytomegalovirus (cmv) infection
- tremors (shaking of the body)
- constipation
- diarrhea
- headache
- stomach pain
- trouble sleeping
- nausea
- high blood sugar (diabetes)
- low levels of magnesium in your blood
- low levels of phosphate in your blood
- swelling of the hands, legs, ankles, or feet
- weakness
- pain
- high levels of fat in your blood
- high levels of potassium in your blood
- low red blood cell count (anemia)
- low white blood cell count
- fever
- numbness or tingling in your hands and feet
- inflammation of your airway (bronchitis)
- fluid around your heart

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of PROGRAF. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store PROGRAF?

PROGRAF capsules

- Store PROGRAF capsules at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

PROGRAF Granules

- Store PROGRAF Granules packets at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep PROGRAF and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the safe and effective use of PROGRAF.

- Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use PROGRAF for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give PROGRAF to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about PROGRAF that is written for health professionals.
- This Patient Information leaflet summarizes the most important information about PROGRAF. If you would like more information, talk to your healthcare provider.

What are the ingredients in PROGRAF?

Active ingredient: tacrolimus

Inactive ingredients:

PROGRAF capsules: croscarmellose sodium, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, and magnesium stearate. The 0.5 mg capsule shell contains ferric oxide, gelatin, and titanium dioxide. The 1 mg capsule shell contains gelatin and titanium dioxide. The 5 mg capsule shell contains ferric oxide, gelatin, and titanium dioxide.

PROGRAF Granules: croscarmellose sodium, hypromellose, and lactose monohydrate.

Distributed by: **Astellas Pharma US, Inc.** Northbrook, IL 60062

PROGRAF® is a registered trademark of Astellas Pharma Inc. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.
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For more information, go to www.astellas.com/us or call 1-800-727-7003.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Revised: 11/2022

Instructions for Use

PROGRAF[®] Granules (PRO-graf) (tacrolimus for oral suspension)

Your healthcare provider has prescribed PROGRAF[®] Granules, which comes in individual packets that will need to be mixed with water before giving the medicine to your child.

Read this Instructions for Use and the Patient Information for the first time and each time you get a refill of PROGRAF Granules (tacrolimus for oral suspension). There may be new information.

This Instructions for Use does not take the place of talking to your child's healthcare provider about their medical condition or treatment. Ask the healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to mix or give a dose of PROGRAF Granules the right way.

Important information:

These instructions are for preparing PROGRAF Granules only.

These instructions should not be used for PROGRAF capsules.

- Mix PROGRAF Granules in water to make an oral suspension.
- Give all of the prepared oral suspension to your child right away after preparing. **Do not** save the prepared oral suspension for later use.
- **Use glass or metal materials** to prepare your child's dose of PROGRAF Granules.
 - **Do not** use any plastic (PVC) materials to prepare PROGRAF Granules. The granules will stick to a plastic container and your child may not receive their full dose.
- **Do not** breathe in (inhale) or let the granules in PROGRAF or the prepared oral suspension come in contact with your skin or eyes.
 - If you get the granules or the prepared oral suspension on your skin, wash the area well with soap and water.
 - If you get the granules or the prepared oral suspension in your eyes, rinse with plain water.

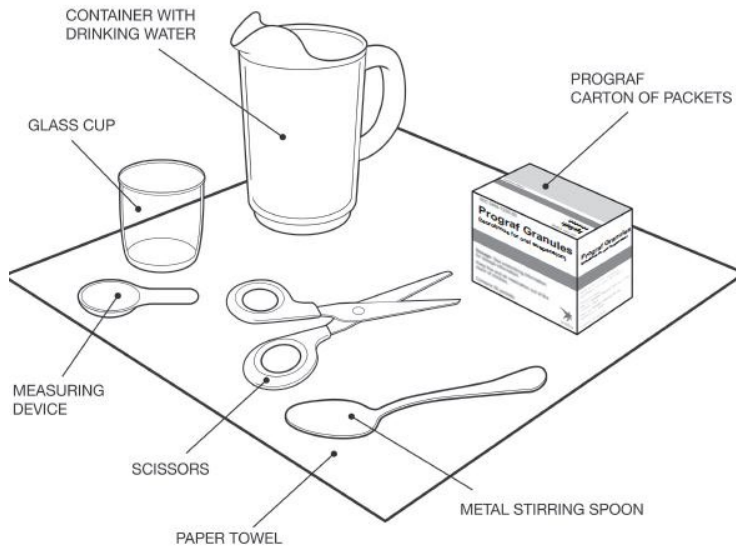
If you spill the granules, wipe the surface with a wet paper towel. If you spill the prepared oral suspension, dry the area with a dry paper towel and then wipe the area with a wet paper towel. Throw away the paper towels in the trash and wash your hands well with soap and water.

For each dose of PROGRAF Granules mixed with water that will be given using a glass cup, you will need the following supplies (See Figure A):

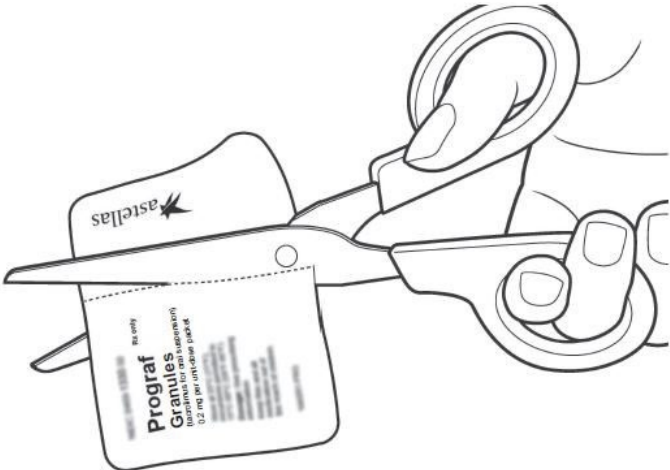

- Carton containing PROGRAF Granules packets. **Follow the instructions on the carton for the number of packets your child's healthcare provider has prescribed for each dose.**
- paper towels
- pair of scissors
- **metal** stirring spoon
- measuring device


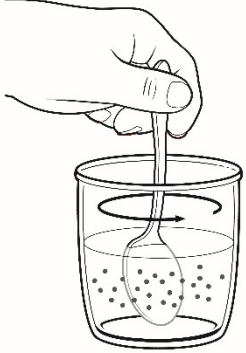

- 1 small clean **glass** cup (plastic containers should not be used)
- container with drinking water

Figure A



Step 1	Choose a clean flat work surface. Place a clean paper towel on the work surface. Place the supplies to prepare the dose on the paper towel.	
Step 2	Wash and dry your hands.	
Step 3	Remove the prescribed number of PROGRAF Granules packets from the carton.	

Step 4	Using a pair of scissors, cut along the dotted line on 1 PROGRAF Granules packet to open it.	 An illustration showing a hand holding a pair of scissors, cutting along a dotted line on a small white packet. The packet is labeled 'astellas' and 'Prograf Granules'. The scissors are positioned to cut the top of the packet.
Step 5	Empty all of the granules in the packet into the glass cup. Check for any remaining granules in the packet and empty these into the glass cup.	 An illustration showing a hand holding a small white packet labeled 'Prograf Granules' and pouring its contents into a clear glass cup. The granules are shown as small dark dots falling into the cup.
Step 6	If more than 1 packet of PROGRAF Granules is needed for your child's prescribed dose, repeat Steps 4 and 5 using the number of packets needed for the prescribed dose.	

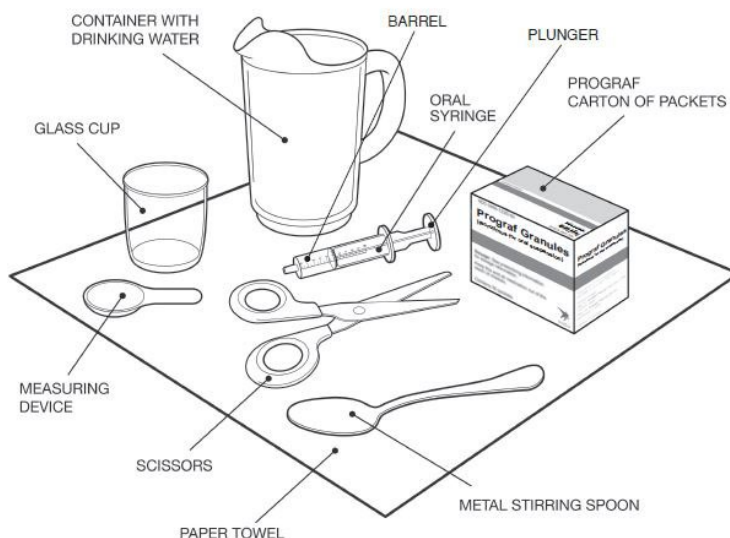
Step 7	Add 1 to 2 tablespoons (15 to 30 milliliters) of room temperature drinking water to the glass cup containing the granules.	
Step 8	Gently stir the granules and water in the glass cup with a metal stirring spoon. The granules will not completely dissolve. You will see granules that are suspended in the water.	
Step 9	Give the granules and water suspension in the glass cup to your child. Make sure your child drinks all of the medicine in the cup. Give all of the medicine to your child right away after preparing. Do not save the medicine for later use.	
Step 10	To make sure all of the medicine is given to your child, refill the glass cup with the same amount of water used in Step 7.	
Step 11	Gently swirl the glass cup to mix any remaining granules.	
Step 12	Give all of the medicine in the cup to the child.	

Step 13	Wash the glass cup. Throw away the paper towel and clean the work surface. Wash your hands.
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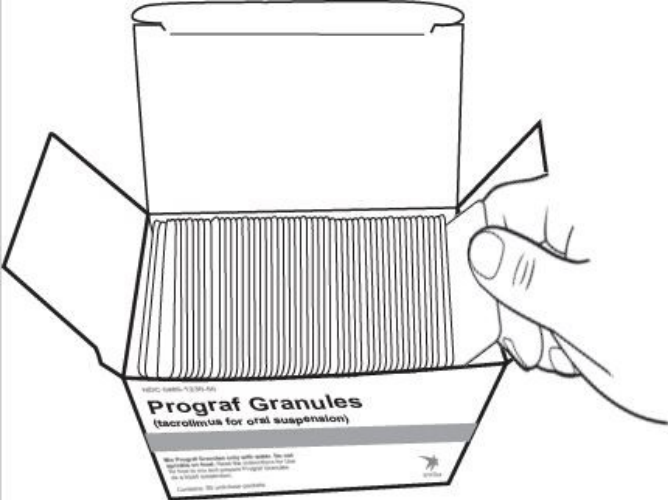
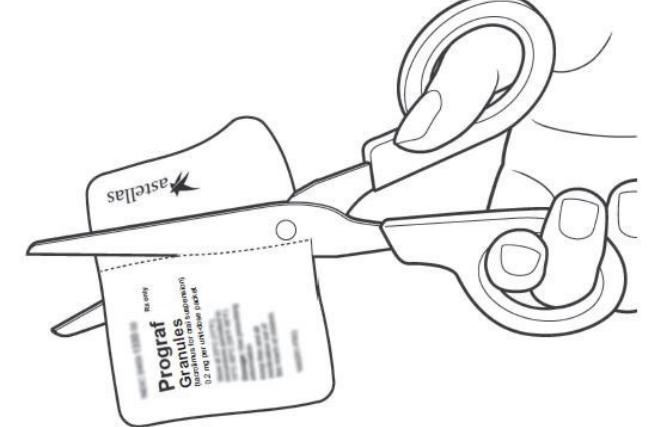

For each dose of **PROGRAF Granules (tacrolimus for oral suspension) mixed with water that will be drawn up and given using an oral syringe**, you will need the following supplies (See Figure B):


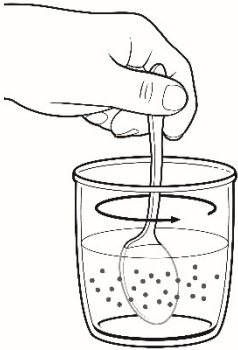
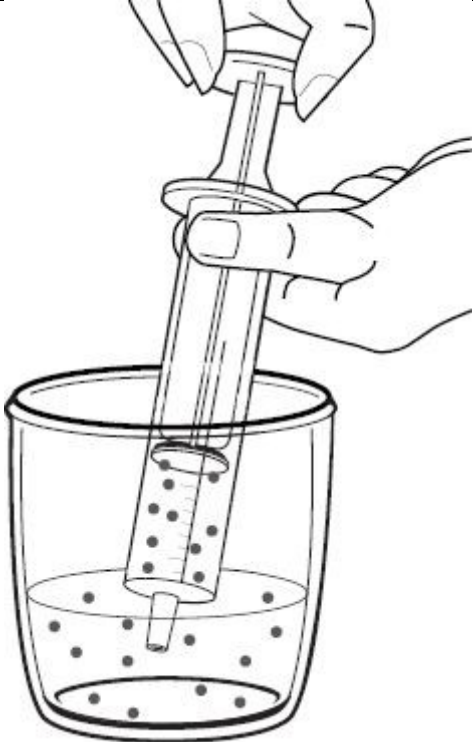
- Carton containing PROGRAF Granules packets. **Follow the instructions on the carton for the number of packets your child’s healthcare provider has prescribed for each dose.**
- paper towels
- pair of scissors
- **metal** stirring spoon
- measuring device
- 1 small clean **glass** cup (plastic containers should not be used)
- container with drinking water
- **1 non-PVC** oral syringe (ask your pharmacist for the oral syringe you should use)

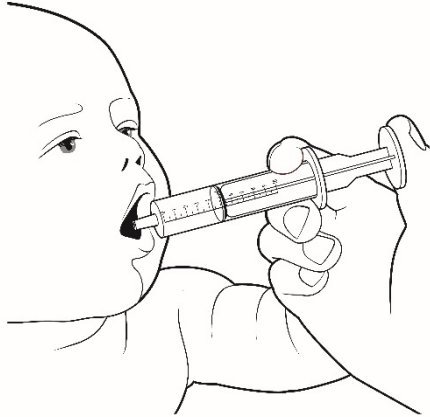
Figure B



Step 1	Choose a clean flat work surface. Place a clean paper towel on the work surface. Place the supplies to prepare the dose on the paper towel.
Step 2	Wash and dry your hands.

Step 3	Remove the prescribed number of PROGRAF Granules packets from the carton.	
Step 4	Using a pair of scissors, cut along the dotted line on 1 PROGRAF Granules packet to open it.	
Step 5	Empty all of the granules in the packet into the glass cup. Check for any remaining granules in the packet and empty these into the glass cup.	
Step 6	If more than 1 packet of PROGRAF Granules is needed for your child's	

	prescribed dose, repeat Steps 4 and 5 using the number of packets needed for the prescribed dose.	
Step 7	Add 1 to 2 tablespoons (15 to 30 milliliters) of room temperature drinking water to the glass cup containing the granules.	
Step 8	Gently stir the granules and drinking water in the glass cup with a metal stirring spoon. The granules will not completely dissolve. You will see granules that are suspended in the drinking water.	
Step 9	Insert the tip of the oral syringe into the glass cup. Pull back on the plunger of the oral syringe to draw up the suspension.	

Step 10	<p>Place the tip of the oral syringe in your child's mouth along the inner cheek. Slowly push the plunger all the way down to give your child all of the medicine in the oral syringe.</p> <p>Repeat Steps 9 and 10 until the glass cup is empty.</p> <p>Give all of the medicine to your child right away after preparing. Do not save the medicine for later use.</p>	
Step 11	To make sure all of the medicine is given to your child, refill the glass cup with the same amount of drinking water used in Step 7.	
Step 12	Gently swirl the glass cup to mix any remaining granules.	
Step 13	Repeat Steps 9 and 10 until the glass cup is empty.	
Step 14	Rinse the plunger and barrel of the syringe well with drinking water and dry well before storing the oral syringe.	
Step 15	Wash the glass cup. Throw away the paper towel and clean the work surface. Wash your hands.	

How should I store PROGRAF Granules packets?

Store PROGRAF Granules packets at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use.

Keep PROGRAF Granules and all medicine out of the reach of children.

This Instructions for Use has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Distributed by:

Astellas Pharma US, Inc.

Northbrook, IL 60062

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Revised: 11/2022

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use ASTAGRAF XL® safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for ASTAGRAF XL.

ASTAGRAF XL (tacrolimus extended-release capsules), for oral use
Initial U.S. Approval: 1994

WARNING: MALIGNANCIES AND SERIOUS INFECTIONS IN TRANSPLANT PATIENTS; and INCREASED MORTALITY IN FEMALE LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

- Increased risk for developing serious infections and malignancies with ASTAGRAF XL or other immunosuppressants that may lead to hospitalization or death. (5.1, 5.2)
- Increased mortality in female liver transplant patients with ASTAGRAF XL. Not approved for use in liver transplantation. (5.3)

RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Warnings and Precautions (5.6, 5.14) 11/2022

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ASTAGRAF XL is a calcineurin-inhibitor immunosuppressant indicated for the prophylaxis of organ rejection in kidney transplant patients in combination with other immunosuppressants in adult and pediatric patients who can swallow capsules intact. (1, 8.4, 14.1, 14.2)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Capsules must be taken whole. (2.1)
- Take consistently every morning at the same time on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before a meal or at least 2 hours after a meal. (2.1)
- Avoid eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice or alcohol. (2.1)
- African-American patients and patients with severe hepatic impairment may require dosing adjustments. (2.3)
- Frequent monitoring of trough concentrations is recommended. (2.4)
- For complete dosing information, see Full Prescribing Information.

Recommended ASTAGRAF XL Initial Dosage		
Patient Population	Initial Oral Dosage	Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range
ADULT		
With basiliximab, MMF and steroids	0.15 to 0.2 mg/kg once daily prior to reperfusion or within 48 hours of completion of transplant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month 1: 7-15 ng/mL • Months 2-6: 5-15 ng/mL • > 6 Months: 5-10 ng/mL
With MMF and steroids, without basiliximab induction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First dose (pre-operative): 0.1 mg/kg, within 12 hours prior to reperfusion • Subsequent doses (post-operative): 0.2 mg/kg once daily at least 4 hours after pre-operative dose and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month 1: 10-15 ng/mL • Months 2-6: 5-15 ng/mL • > 6 Months: 5-10 ng/mL

	within 12 hours after reperfusion	
PEDIATRIC		
With basiliximab, MMF and steroids	0.3 mg/kg once daily, administered within 24 hours following reperfusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month 1: 10-20 ng/mL • > Month 1: 5-15 ng/mL

MMF = Mycophenolate mofetil

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Capsules: 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 5 mg (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Known hypersensitivity to tacrolimus. (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- **Not Interchangeable with Other Tacrolimus Products-Medication Errors:** Instruct patients or caregivers to recognize the appearance of ASTAGRAF XL capsules. (5.4)
- **New onset diabetes after transplant:** Monitor blood glucose. (5.5)
- **Nephrotoxicity** (acute and/or chronic): May occur due to ASTAGRAF XL, drug interactions, concomitant nephrotoxic drugs. Monitor renal function; consider dosage reduction. (5.6)
- **Neurotoxicity:** Including risk of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES), monitor for neurologic abnormalities; reduce dosage or discontinue ASTAGRAF XL. (5.7)
- **Hyperkalemia:** Risk may be increased with other agents associated with hyperkalemia; monitor serum potassium levels. (5.8)
- **Hypertension:** May require antihypertensive therapy; monitor relevant drug interactions. (5.9)
- **QT prolongation:** Consider obtaining electrocardiograms and monitoring electrolytes in patients at high risk. (5.11)
- **Immunizations:** Avoid live vaccines. (5.12)
- **Pure red cell aplasia:** Consider discontinuation of ASTAGRAF XL. (5.13)
- **Thrombotic Microangiopathy, Including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura:** May occur, especially in patients with infections and certain concomitant medications. (5.14)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most common adverse reactions (≥ 30%) are: diarrhea, constipation, nausea, peripheral edema, tremor and anemia. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Astellas Pharma US, Inc. at 1-800-727-7003 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Risk of rejection with strong CYP3A inducers and risk of serious adverse reactions with strong CYP3A inhibitors: Adjust dose and monitor tacrolimus concentrations. (2.4, 5.10, 7.2)
- See Full Prescribing Information for clinically significant drug interactions. (7.1, 7.2)

USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

Pregnancy: Can cause fetal harm. Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to the fetus. (8.1, 8.3)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and Medication Guide

Revised: 11/2022

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS*

WARNING: MALIGNANCIES AND SERIOUS INFECTIONS IN TRANSPLANT PATIENTS; AND INCREASED MORTALITY IN FEMALE LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

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2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 Important Administration Instructions
- 2.2 Dosage Recommendations for Kidney Transplant Patients

- 2.3 Dosage Modifications for African-American Patients, Patients with Hepatic Impairment, and Drug Interactions
- 2.4 Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

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4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

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 - 17.11 Pregnancy, Lactation and Infertility
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*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

WARNING: MALIGNANCIES AND SERIOUS INFECTIONS IN TRANSPLANT PATIENTS; and INCREASED MORTALITY IN FEMALE LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

- **Increased risk for developing serious infections and malignancies with ASTAGRAF XL® or other immunosuppressants that may lead to hospitalization or death. [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1, 5.2\)](#)]**
- **Increased mortality in female liver transplant patients with ASTAGRAF XL. ASTAGRAF XL is not approved for use in liver transplantation. [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.3\)](#)]**

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ASTAGRAF XL® is indicated for the prophylaxis of organ rejection in kidney transplant patients in combination with other immunosuppressants in adult and pediatric patients who can swallow capsules intact [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.4\)](#) and [Clinical Studies \(14.1\), \(14.2\)](#)].

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Important Administration Instructions

- **ASTAGRAF XL should not be used without the supervision by a physician with experience in immunosuppressive therapy.**
- ASTAGRAF XL (tacrolimus extended-release capsules) is not interchangeable or substitutable for tacrolimus extended-release tablets, tacrolimus immediate-release capsules or tacrolimus for oral suspension. Under or overexposure to tacrolimus may result in graft rejection or other serious adverse reactions. Changes between tacrolimus immediate-release and extended-release dosage forms must occur under physician supervision [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)].
- Advise patients to swallow ASTAGRAF XL capsules whole with liquid; patients must not chew, divide, or crush the capsules.

- ASTAGRAF XL should be taken consistently every morning at the same time to ensure consistent and maximum possible drug exposure, on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before a meal, or at least 2 hours after a meal [*see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)*].
- If a dose is missed, the dose may be taken up to 14 hours after the scheduled time (i.e., for a missed 8:00 AM dose, a dose may be taken by 10:00 PM). Beyond the 14-hour time frame, the patient should wait until the usual scheduled time the following morning to take the next regular daily dose. Instruct the patient not to double the next dose.
- Advise patients to avoid eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice or alcoholic beverages while taking ASTAGRAF XL [*see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)*].
- Therapeutic drug monitoring is recommended for all patients receiving ASTAGRAF XL [*see [Dosage and Administration \(2.4\)](#)*].

2.2 Dosage Recommendations for Kidney Transplant Patients

[Table 1](#) includes the recommended starting ASTAGRAF XL dosages and whole blood trough concentration ranges; the observed trough concentrations are shown in another section of the Full Prescribing Information [*see [Clinical Studies \(14\)](#)*]. Titrate the ASTAGRAF XL dosage based on clinical assessments of rejection and tolerability, and to achieve target trough concentration ranges [*see [Dosage and Administration \(2.4\)](#) and [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6, 5.7, 5.10, 5.11\)](#)*].

Table 1: Recommended Starting Daily Dosage Regimen of ASTAGRAF XL

Recommended ASTAGRAF XL Initial Dosage*		
Patient Population	Initial Oral Dosage	Whole Blood Trough Concentration Range
ADULT		
With basiliximab, MMF and steroids	0.15 to 0.2 mg/kg once daily prior to reperfusion or within 48 hours of completion of transplant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month 1: 7-15 ng/mL • Months 2-6: 5-15 ng/mL • > 6 Months: 5-10 ng/mL
With MMF and steroids, without basiliximab induction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First dose (pre-operative): 0.1 mg/kg, within 12 hours prior to reperfusion • Subsequent doses (post-operative): 0.2 mg/kg once daily at least 4 hours after pre-operative dose and within 12 hours after reperfusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month 1: 10-15 ng/mL • Months 2-6: 5-15 ng/mL • > 6 Months: 5-10 ng/mL
PEDIATRIC		
With basiliximab, MMF and steroids	0.3 mg/kg once daily, administered within 24 hours following reperfusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month 1: 10-20 ng/mL • > Month 1: 5-15 ng/mL

MMF = mycophenolate mofetil

2.3 Dosage Modifications for African-American Patients, Patients with Hepatic Impairment, and Drug Interactions

African-American patients, compared to Caucasian patients, may need to be titrated to higher ASTAGRAF XL dosages to attain comparable trough concentrations [*see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#) and [Clinical Studies \(14\)](#)*].

Patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh ≥ 10) may require a lower starting dosage of ASTAGRAF XL, due to the reduced clearance and prolonged half-life [*see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)*].

Dose adjustments of ASTAGRAF XL may be necessary when administered concomitantly with CYP3A inducers or CYP3A inhibitors [*see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.10\)](#) and [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)*].




2.4 Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Measure tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations at least two times on separate days during the first week after initiation of dosing and after a change in dosage, after a change in co-administration of CYP3A4 inducers and/or inhibitors, or after a change in renal or hepatic function. When interpreting measured concentrations, consider that the time to achieve tacrolimus steady state is approximately 7 days after initiating or changing the ASTAGRAF XL dose.

Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations using a validated assay [e.g., immunoassays or high performance liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometric detection (HPLC/MS/MS)]. The immunosuppressive activity of tacrolimus is mainly due to the parent drug rather than to its metabolites. Immunoassays may react with metabolites as well as the parent drug. Therefore, whole blood tacrolimus trough concentrations obtained with immunoassays may be numerically higher than concentrations obtained with an assay using HPLC/MS/MS. Comparison of the whole blood tacrolimus trough concentrations of patients to those described in the prescribing information and other published literature must be made with knowledge of the assay method(s) employed.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

ASTAGRAF XL CAPSULES:

- 0.5 mg: light yellow cap and orange body branded with red “ 647” on the capsule body and “0.5 mg” on the capsule cap.
- 1 mg: white cap and orange body branded with red “ 677” on the capsule body and “1 mg” on the capsule cap.
- 5 mg: grayish-red cap and orange body branded with red “ 687” on the capsule body and “5 mg” on the capsule cap.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

ASTAGRAF XL is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to tacrolimus [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.2\)](#)].

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Lymphoma and Other Malignancies

Immunosuppressants, including ASTAGRAF XL, increase the risk of developing lymphomas and other malignancies, particularly of the skin. The risk appears to be related to the intensity and duration of immunosuppression rather than to the use of any specific agent. Examine patients for skin changes and advise to avoid or limit exposure to sunlight and UV light by wearing protective clothing and using a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a high protection factor.

Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD), associated with Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV), has been reported in immunosuppressed organ transplant patients. The risk of PTLD appears greatest in patients who are EBV seronegative, a population which includes many young children. Monitor EBV serology during treatment.

5.2 Serious Infections

Immunosuppressants, including ASTAGRAF XL, increase the risk of developing bacterial, viral, fungal, and protozoal infections, including opportunistic infections. These infections may lead to serious, including fatal, outcomes. Serious viral infections reported include:

- Polyomavirus-associated nephropathy (especially due to BK virus infection)

- JC virus-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infections: CMV seronegative transplant patients who receive an organ from a CMV seropositive donor are at highest risk of CMV viremia and CMV disease.

Monitor for the development of infection and adjust the immunosuppressive regimen to balance the risk of rejection with the risk of infection [*see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1, 6.2\)](#)*].

5.3 Increased Mortality in Female Liver Transplant Patients

In a clinical trial of 471 liver transplant patients randomized to ASTAGRAF XL or tacrolimus immediate-release product, mortality at 12 months was 10% higher among the 76 female patients (18%) treated with ASTAGRAF XL compared to the 64 female patients (8%) treated with tacrolimus immediate-release product. ASTAGRAF XL is not approved for the prophylaxis of organ rejection in patients who received a liver transplant.

5.4 Not Interchangeable with Other Tacrolimus Products - Medication Errors

Medication errors, including substitution and dispensing errors, between tacrolimus immediate-release products and ASTAGRAF XL (tacrolimus extended-release capsules) were reported outside the U.S. This led to serious adverse reactions, including graft rejection, or other adverse reactions due to under- or over-exposure to tacrolimus. ASTAGRAF XL is not interchangeable or substitutable for tacrolimus extended-release tablets, tacrolimus immediate-release capsules or tacrolimus for oral suspension. Changes between tacrolimus immediate-release and extended-release dosage forms must occur under physician supervision. Instruct patients and caregivers to recognize the appearance of ASTAGRAF XL capsules [*see [Dosage Forms and Strengths \(3\)](#)*] and to confirm with the healthcare provider if a different product is dispensed or if dosing instructions have changed.

5.5 New Onset Diabetes After Transplant

ASTAGRAF XL caused new onset diabetes after transplant (NODAT) in kidney transplant patients, which may be reversible in some patients. African-American and Hispanic kidney transplant patients are at an increased risk. Monitor blood glucose concentrations and treat appropriately [*see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#) and [Use in Specific Populations \(8.8\)](#)*].

5.6 Nephrotoxicity due to ASTAGRAF XL and Drug Interactions

ASTAGRAF XL, like other calcineurin-inhibitors, can cause acute or chronic nephrotoxicity in transplant patients due to its vasoconstrictive effect on renal vasculature, toxic tubulopathy and tubular-interstitial effects. Acute renal impairment associated with tacrolimus toxicity can result in high serum creatinine, hyperkalemia, decreased secretion of urea and hyperuricemia, and is usually reversible. In patients with elevated serum creatinine and tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations greater than the recommended range, consider dosage reduction or temporary interruption of tacrolimus administration.

The risk for nephrotoxicity may increase when ASTAGRAF XL is concomitantly administered with CYP3A inhibitors (by increasing tacrolimus whole blood concentrations) or drugs associated with nephrotoxicity (e.g., aminoglycosides, ganciclovir, amphotericin B, cisplatin, nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors, protease inhibitors). When tacrolimus is used concurrently with other known nephrotoxic drugs, monitor renal function and tacrolimus blood concentrations, and adjust dose of both tacrolimus and/or concomitant medications during concurrent use [*see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1, 6.2\)](#) and [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)*].

5.7 Neurotoxicity

ASTAGRAF XL may cause a spectrum of neurotoxicities. The most severe neurotoxicities include posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES), delirium, seizure and coma; others include tremors, paresthesias, headache, mental status changes, and changes in motor and sensory functions [*see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1, 6.2\)](#)*]. As symptoms may be

associated with tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations at or above the recommended range, monitor for neurologic symptoms and consider dosage reduction or discontinuation of ASTAGRAF XL if neurotoxicity occurs.

5.8 Hyperkalemia

Mild to severe hyperkalemia, which may require treatment, has been reported with tacrolimus including ASTAGRAF XL. Concomitant use of agents associated with hyperkalemia (e.g., potassium-sparing diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers) may increase the risk for hyperkalemia [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)]. Monitor serum potassium levels periodically during treatment.

5.9 Hypertension

Hypertension is a common adverse reaction of ASTAGRAF XL therapy and may require antihypertensive therapy [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)]. Some antihypertensive drugs can increase the risk for hyperkalemia [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8\)](#)]. Calcium-channel blocking agents may increase tacrolimus blood concentrations and require dosage reduction of ASTAGRAF XL [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

5.10 Risk of Rejection with Strong CYP3A Inducers and Risk of Serious Adverse Reactions with Strong CYP3A Inhibitors

The concomitant use of strong CYP3A inducers may increase the metabolism of tacrolimus, leading to lower whole blood trough concentrations and greater risk of rejection. In contrast, the concomitant use of strong CYP3A inhibitors may decrease the metabolism of tacrolimus, leading to higher whole blood trough concentrations and greater risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7, 5.11\)](#)]. Therefore, adjust ASTAGRAF XL dose and monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations when co-administering ASTAGRAF XL with strong CYP3A inhibitors (e.g., including, but not limited to, telaprevir, boceprevir, ritonavir, ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, clarithromycin) or strong CYP3A inducers (e.g., including, but not limited to, rifampin, rifabutin) [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.4\)](#) and [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)]. A rapid, sharp rise in tacrolimus levels has been reported after co-administration with a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor, clarithromycin, despite an initial reduction of tacrolimus dose. Early and frequent monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood trough levels is recommended [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

5.11 QT Prolongation

ASTAGRAF XL may prolong the QT/QTc interval and cause *Torsades de pointes*. Avoid ASTAGRAF XL in patients with congenital long QT syndrome. Consider obtaining electrocardiograms and monitoring electrolytes (magnesium, potassium, calcium) periodically during treatment in patients with congestive heart failure, bradyarrhythmias, those taking certain antiarrhythmic medications or other products that lead to QT prolongation, and those with electrolyte disturbances (e.g., hypokalemia, hypocalcemia, or hypomagnesemia).

When co-administering ASTAGRAF XL with other substrates and/or inhibitors of CYP3A, especially those that also have the potential to prolong the QT interval, a reduction in ASTAGRAF XL dosage, monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood concentrations, and monitoring for QT prolongation is recommended [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.4\)](#) and [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

5.12 Immunizations

Whenever possible, administer the complete complement of vaccines before transplantation and treatment with ASTAGRAF XL.

Avoid the use of live attenuated vaccines during treatment with ASTAGRAF XL (e.g., intranasal influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, oral polio, BCG, yellow fever, varicella, and TY21a typhoid vaccines).

Inactivated vaccines noted to be safe for administration after transplantation may not be sufficiently immunogenic during treatment with ASTAGRAF XL.

5.13 Pure Red Cell Aplasia

Cases of pure red cell aplasia (PRCA) have been reported in patients treated with tacrolimus. All of these patients reported risk factors for PRCA such as parvovirus B19 infection, underlying disease, or concomitant medications associated with PRCA. A mechanism for tacrolimus-induced PRCA has not been elucidated. If PRCA is diagnosed, consider discontinuation of ASTAGRAF XL.

5.14 Thrombotic Microangiopathy (TMA) Including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura

Cases of thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA), including hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) and thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), have been reported in patients treated with ASTAGRAF XL. TMA may have a multifactorial etiology. Risk factors for TMA that can occur in transplant patients include, for example, severe infections, graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) mismatch, the use of calcineurin inhibitors and mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitors. These risk factors may, either alone or combined, contribute to the risk of TMA.

In patients with signs and symptoms of TMA, consider tacrolimus as a risk factor. Concurrent use of tacrolimus and mTOR inhibitors may contribute to the risk of TMA.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following clinically significant adverse drug reactions are discussed in greater detail in other sections of labeling:

- Lymphoma and Other Malignancies [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)]
- Serious Infections [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)]
- Increased Mortality in Female Liver Transplant Patients [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.3\)](#)]
- New Onset Diabetes after Transplant [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)]
- Nephrotoxicity due to ASTAGRAF XL and Drug Interactions [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)]
- Neurotoxicity [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7\)](#)]
- Hyperkalemia [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8\)](#)]
- Hypertension [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.9\)](#)]
- QT Prolongation [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.11\)](#)]
- Pure Red Cell Aplasia [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.13\)](#)]
- Thrombotic Microangiopathy, Including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.14\)](#)]

6.1 Clinical Studies Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice. In addition, the clinical trials were not designed to establish comparative differences across study arms with regards to the adverse reactions discussed below.

Kidney transplant patients were treated with ASTAGRAF XL (N=214) or tacrolimus immediate-release product (N=212) and concomitant immunosuppressants (median duration of exposure of 12 months) in a randomized, open-label, active-controlled trial of mostly U.S. patients (Study 1) [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1\)](#)]. The types of adverse reactions seen in

Study 1 were similar to the adverse reactions seen in Study 2 [non-U.S. trial in kidney transplant patients treated with ASTAGRAF XL (N=331) or tacrolimus immediate-release product (N=336) and concomitant immunosuppressants] [see [Clinical Studies \(14.2\)](#)].

In Study 1, the proportion of patients who discontinued treatment due to adverse reactions was 9% and 11% in the ASTAGRAF XL and tacrolimus immediate-release treatment groups, respectively, through 12 months of treatment. The most common adverse reactions leading to discontinuation in ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients were related to infections or renal/urinary disorders.

Infections

The overall incidence of infections, serious infections, and infections with identified etiology reported in patients treated with the ASTAGRAF XL or tacrolimus immediate-release product in Study 1 are shown in [Table 2](#).

Table 2: Percentage of Patients with Infections in Study 1^a Through One Year Post-Kidney Transplant

	ASTAGRAF XL, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=214	Tacrolimus immediate-release product, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=212
All Infections	69%	69%
Respiratory Infections	34%	31%
Urinary Tract Infections	16%	25%
Cytomegalovirus Infections	10%	11%
Bacterial Infections	8%	12%
Gastroenteritis	7%	3%
Polyomavirus Infections	3%	5%
Serious Infections	22%	23%

^a Study 1 was not designed to support comparative claims of ASTAGRAF XL compared to tacrolimus immediate-release product for the adverse reactions reported in this table.

New Onset Diabetes After Transplant (NODAT)

The incidence of new onset diabetes after transplantation (defined by the composite occurrence of ≥ 2 fasting plasma glucose values that were > 126 mg/dL at ≥ 30 days apart, insulin use for ≥ 30 consecutive days, oral hypoglycemic use for ≥ 30 consecutive days, and/or $HbA_{1C} \geq 6.5\%$) is summarized in [Table 3](#) below for Study 1 through one year post-transplant [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)].

Table 3: Percentage of Patients with NODAT Through One Year Post-Kidney Transplant in Study 1^a

	ASTAGRAF XL, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=162	Tacrolimus immediate-release product, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=151
Composite NODAT	36%	35%
≥ 2 Fasting Plasma Glucose Values ≥ 126 mg/dL ≥ 30 days apart	26%	23%
$HbA_{1C} \geq 6.5\%$	19%	22%
Oral hypoglycemic use ≥ 30 consecutive days	14%	9%

	ASTAGRAF XL, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=162	Tacrolimus immediate-release product, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=151
Insulin use \geq 30 consecutive days	6%	8%

^a Study 1 was not designed to support comparative claims of ASTAGRAF XL compared to tacrolimus immediate-release product for the adverse reactions reported in this table.

Hyperkalemia

In Study 1 [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1\)](#)], 73 of 214 (34.1%) patients on ASTAGRAF XL had a serum potassium level greater than 5.4 up to 6.4 mEq/L, and 8 out of 214 (3.7%) patients had a serum potassium level greater than 6.4 mEq/L [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8\)](#)].

Common Adverse Reactions

The most common (\geq 30%) adverse reactions observed with ASTAGRAF XL in Study 1 were: diarrhea, constipation, nausea, peripheral edema, tremor, and anemia. The incidence of adverse reactions that occurred in \geq 15% of ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients compared to tacrolimus immediate-release product through one year of treatment in Study 1 is shown by treatment groups in [Table 4](#).

Table 4: Adverse Reactions (\geq 15%) in Kidney Transplant Patients Through One Year Post-Transplant in Study 1^a

	ASTAGRAF XL, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=214	Tacrolimus immediate-release product, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=212
Diarrhea	45%	44%
Constipation	40%	32%
Nausea	36%	35%
Peripheral Edema	36%	34%
Tremor	35%	34%
Anemia	33%	29%
Hypertension	28%	30%
Vomiting	25%	25%
Hypomagnesemia	24%	27%
Insomnia	24%	28%
Hypophosphatemia	23%	28%
Headache	22%	24%
Hyperkalemia	20%	23%
Increased Blood Creatinine	19%	23%
Fatigue	16%	10%
Leukopenia	16%	16%
Hyperlipidemia	16%	17%

	ASTAGRAF XL, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=214	Tacrolimus immediate-release product, MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction N=212
Hyperglycemia	16%	18%

^a Study 1 was not designed to support comparative claims of ASTAGRAF XL compared to tacrolimus immediate-release for the adverse reactions reported in this table.

Less Frequently Reported Adverse Reactions (< 15% in ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients) by System Organ Class

The following adverse reactions were reported in clinical studies of kidney transplant patients who were treated with ASTAGRAF XL, MMF, and steroids (Studies 1 and 2):

- Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: Hemolytic anemia, leukocytosis, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, thrombotic microangiopathy
- Cardiac Disorders: Atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, tachycardia
- Ear Disorders: Tinnitus
- Eye Disorders: Vision blurred, conjunctivitis
- Gastrointestinal Disorders: Abdominal distension, abdominal pain, aphthous stomatitis, dyspepsia, esophagitis, flatulence, gastritis, gastroesophageal reflux disease
- General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions: Anasarca, asthenia, edema, pyrexia
- Hepatobiliary Disorders: Abnormal hepatic function, cholestasis, hepatitis (acute and chronic), hepatotoxicity
- Infections and Infestations: Condyloma acuminatum, tinea versicolor
- Injury: Fall
- Investigations: Increased blood lactate dehydrogenase, increased blood urea, increased hepatic enzyme
- Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders: Anorexia, hyperphosphatemia, hyperuricemia, hypokalemia, hyponatremia, metabolic acidosis
- Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders: Arthralgia, osteopenia, osteoporosis
- Neoplasms: Kaposi's sarcoma
- Nervous System Disorders: Convulsion, dizziness, hypoesthesia, neurotoxicity, paresthesia, peripheral neuropathy
- Psychiatric Disorders: Agitation, anxiety, confusional state, depression, hallucination, mood swings, nightmare
- Renal and Urinary Disorders: Anuria, oliguria, proteinuria, renal failure, renal tubular necrosis, toxic nephropathy
- Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: Acute respiratory distress syndrome, dyspnea, pulmonary edema, productive cough
- Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Acne, alopecia, dermatitis, hyperhidrosis, hypotrichosis, pruritus, rash
- Vascular Disorders: Deep vein thrombosis, flushing

Pediatrics

De Novo Pediatric Transplant Patients

A study was conducted in 44 *de novo* pediatric transplant patients (including 25 kidney transplant patients; 13 randomized to ASTAGRAF XL and 12 randomized to Prograf), who were started on 0.3 mg/kg daily of tacrolimus product, given once daily for ASTAGRAF XL and divided into two doses for Prograf. Two kidney transplant patients on Prograf discontinued the study (withdrawn consent, sapovirus enteritis). Thirteen (13) pediatric kidney transplant patients completed 52 weeks on ASTAGRAF XL. The most common adverse reactions were diarrhea [7/13 (54%)], increased blood creatinine [6/13 (46%)], hypertension [3/13 (23%)], cough [4/13 (31%)], and upper respiratory tract infection [4/13 (31%)].

Stable Pediatric Transplant Patients

Another study was conducted in 81 stable pediatric allograft recipients (including 48 kidney transplant patients) 5 to 16 years of age converted 1:1 (mg:mg) from Prograf to ASTAGRAF XL. Seventy-six (76) pediatric patients completed at least one year of ASTAGRAF XL-based treatment. Treatment-related adverse reactions were reported in 35%, including 13% serious adverse reactions. The most frequent adverse reactions by system organ class were infections (55.7%), followed by gastrointestinal disorders (27.8%), skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders (21.5%), respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders (20.3% each). The most common adverse reactions were diarrhea (13.9%), headache (13.9%) and cough (11.4%).

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been reported from marketing experience with tacrolimus in the U.S. and outside the U.S. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure. These reactions have been chosen for inclusion due to either their seriousness, frequency of reporting or causal connection to ASTAGRAF XL:

- Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: Agranulocytosis, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hemolytic uremic syndrome, febrile neutropenia, pancytopenia, pure red cell aplasia [*see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.13\)](#)*], coagulopathy, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, prolonged activated partial thromboplastin time, decreased blood fibrinogen
- Cardiac Disorders: Cardiac arrest, myocardial infarction, ventricular fibrillation, congestive cardiac failure, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, pericardial effusion, angina pectoris, supraventricular extrasystoles, supraventricular tachycardia, bradycardia, *Torsades de pointes*, QT prolongation
- Ear Disorders: Hearing loss
- Eye Disorders: Blindness, optic neuropathy, optic atrophy, photophobia
- Gastrointestinal Disorders: Gastrointestinal hemorrhage, gastrointestinal perforation, pancreatitis, peritonitis, stomach ulcer, intestinal obstruction, ascites, colitis, ileus, impaired gastric emptying, dysphagia
- Hepatobiliary Disorders: Hepatic failure, hepatic necrosis, cirrhosis, cholangitis, venoocclusive liver disease, bile duct stenosis, hepatic steatosis, jaundice
- Hypersensitivity Reactions: Hypersensitivity, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, urticaria
- Immune System Disorders: Graft versus host disease (acute and chronic)
- Investigations: Increased international normalized ratio
- Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders: Hypoproteinemia
- Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders: Rhabdomyolysis, myalgia, polyarthritis, pain in extremity including Calcineurin-Inhibitor Induced Pain Syndrome (CIPS)
- Neoplasms: Lymphoma including EBV-associated lymphoproliferative disorder, hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma, PTLN [*see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)*], leukemia, melanoma
- Nervous System Disorders: Cerebral infarction, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) sometimes fatal [*see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)*], posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) [*see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7\)](#)*], coma, status epilepticus, quadriplegia, flaccid paralysis, hemiparesis, aphasia, syncope, carpal tunnel syndrome, nerve compression, mutism, dysarthria, somnolence
- Psychiatric Disorders: Mental status changes
- Renal and Urinary Disorders: Hemorrhagic cystitis, hematuria, urinary retention, urinary incontinence
- Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: Interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, lung infiltration, rhinitis allergic, hiccups
- Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Hyperpigmentation, photosensitivity
- Vascular Disorders: Hemorrhage

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

7.1 Mycophenolic Acid

When ASTAGRAF XL is prescribed with a given dose of a mycophenolic acid (MPA) product, exposure to MPA is higher with ASTAGRAF XL co-administration than with cyclosporine co-administration with MPA, because cyclosporine interrupts the enterohepatic recirculation of MPA while tacrolimus does not. Monitor for MPA-associated adverse reactions and reduce the dose of concomitantly administered mycophenolic acid products as needed.

7.2 Effects of Other Drugs on ASTAGRAF XL

[Table 5](#) displays the effects of other drugs on ASTAGRAF XL.

Table 5: Effects of Other Drugs/Substances on ASTAGRAF XL^a

Drug/Substance Class or Name	Drug Interaction Effect	Recommendations
Grapefruit or grapefruit juice ^b	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see Warnings and Precautions (5.7, 5.10, 5.11)].	Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice.
Alcohol	May increase the rate of tacrolimus release and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see Warnings and Precautions (5.7, 5.10, 5.11)].	Avoid alcoholic beverages.
Strong CYP3A Inducers ^c : Antimycobacterials (e.g., rifampin, rifabutin), anticonvulsants (e.g., phenytoin, carbamazepine and phenobarbital), St John's wort	May decrease tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of rejection [see Warnings and Precautions (5.10)].	Increase ASTAGRAF XL dose and monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations [see Dosage and Administration (2.3, 2.4) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].
Strong CYP3A Inhibitors ^c : Protease inhibitors (e.g., nelfinavir, telaprevir, boceprevir, ritonavir), azole antifungals (e.g., voriconazole, posaconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole), antibiotics (e.g., clarithromycin, troleandomycin, chloramphenicol), nefazodone, letermovir, <i>Schisandra sphenanthera</i> extracts	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation). A rapid, sharp rise in tacrolimus levels may occur early, despite an immediate reduction of tacrolimus dose [see Warnings and Precautions (5.7, 5.10, 5.11)].	Reduce ASTAGRAF XL dose (for voriconazole and posaconazole, give one-third of the original dose) and adjust dose based on tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations [see Dosage and Administration (2.3, 2.4) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]. Early and frequent monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood trough levels should start within 1-3 days and continue monitoring as necessary [see Warnings and Precautions (5.10)].
Mild or Moderate CYP3A Inhibitors: Clotrimazole, antibiotics (e.g., verapamil, diltiazem, nifedipine, nicardipine), amiodarone, danazol, ethinyl estradiol, cimetidine, lansoprazole and omeprazole	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see Warnings and Precautions (5.7, 5.10, 5.11)].	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and reduce ASTAGRAF XL dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.3, 2.4) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].

Drug/Substance Class or Name	Drug Interaction Effect	Recommendations
Other drugs, such as: Magnesium and aluminum hydroxide antacids Metoclopramide	May increase tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and increase the risk of serious adverse reactions (e.g., neurotoxicity, QT prolongation) [see Warnings and Precautions (5.7, 5.10, 5.11)].	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and reduce ASTAGRAF XL dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.3, 2.4) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].
Mild or Moderate CYP3A Inducers Methylprednisolone, prednisone	May decrease tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations.	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and adjust ASTAGRAF XL dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.3, 2.4)].
Caspofungin	May decrease tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations.	Monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations and adjust ASTAGRAF XL dose if needed [see Dosage and Administration (2.3, 2.4)].

^a ASTAGRAF XL dosage adjustment recommendation based on observed effect of co-administered drug on tacrolimus exposures [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)], literature reports of altered tacrolimus exposures, or the other drug's known CYP3A inhibitor/inducer status.

^b High dose or double strength grapefruit juice is a *strong* CYP3A inhibitor; low dose or single strength grapefruit juice is a *moderate* CYP3A inhibitor.

^c Strong CYP3A inhibitor/inducer, based on reported effect on exposures to tacrolimus along with supporting *in vitro* CYP3A inhibitor/inducer data, or based on drug-drug interaction studies with midazolam (sensitive CYP3A probe substrate).

Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Therapy

The pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus may be impacted by changes in liver function during DAA therapy, related to clearance of HCV virus. Close monitoring and potential dose adjustment of ASTAGRAF XL is warranted to ensure continued efficacy and safety [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3, 2.4\)](#)].

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Exposure Registry

There is a pregnancy registry that monitors pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to ASTAGRAF XL during pregnancy. The Transplantation Pregnancy Registry International (TPRI) is a voluntary pregnancy exposure registry that monitors outcomes of pregnancy in female transplant recipients and those fathered by male transplant recipients exposed to immunosuppressants including tacrolimus. Healthcare providers are encouraged to advise their patients to register by contacting the Transplantation Pregnancy Registry International at 1-877-955-6877 or <https://www.transplantpregnancyregistry.org/>.

Risk Summary

Tacrolimus can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Data from postmarketing surveillance and TPRI suggest that infants exposed to tacrolimus *in utero* are at a risk of prematurity, birth defects/congenital anomalies, low birth weight, and fetal distress [see *Human Data*]. Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to the fetus.

Administration of oral tacrolimus to pregnant rabbits and rats throughout the period of organogenesis was associated with maternal toxicity/lethality, and an increased incidence of abortion, malformation and embryofetal death at clinically relevant doses [0.5 the maximum recommended clinical dose (0.2 mg/kg/day), on a mg/m² basis]. Administration of oral

tacrolimus to pregnant rats after organogenesis and throughout lactation produced maternal toxicity, effects on parturition, reduced pup viability and reduced pup weight at clinically relevant doses (0.8 the maximum recommended clinical dose, on a mg/m² basis). Administration of oral tacrolimus to rats prior to mating, and throughout gestation and lactation produced maternal toxicity/lethality, marked effects on parturition, embryofetal loss, malformations, and reduced pup viability at clinically relevant doses (0.8 times the maximum recommended clinical dose, on a mg/m² basis). Interventricular septal defects, hydronephrosis, craniofacial malformations and skeletal effects were observed in offspring that died [*see Animal Data*].

The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in the indicated population is unknown.

In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively.

Clinical Considerations

Disease-Associated Maternal and/or Embryo-Fetal Risk

Risks during pregnancy are increased in organ transplant recipients. The risk of premature delivery following transplantation is increased. Pre-existing hypertension and diabetes confer additional risk to the pregnancy of an organ transplant recipient. Pre-gestational and gestational diabetes are associated with birth defects/congenital anomalies, hypertension, low birth weight and fetal death.

Cholestasis of pregnancy (COP) was reported in 7% of liver or liver-kidney (LK) transplant recipients, compared with approximately 1% of pregnancies in the general population. However, COP symptoms resolved postpartum and no long-term effects on the offspring were reported.

Maternal Adverse Reactions

ASTAGRAF XL may increase hyperglycemia in pregnant women with diabetes (including gestational diabetes). Monitor maternal blood glucose levels regularly [*see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)*].

ASTAGRAF XL may exacerbate hypertension in pregnant women and increase pre-eclampsia. Monitor and control blood pressure [*see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8, 5.9\)](#)*].

Fetal/Neonatal Adverse Reactions

Renal dysfunction, transient neonatal hyperkalemia and low birth weight have been reported at the time of delivery in infants of mothers taking ASTAGRAF XL.

Labor or Delivery

There is an increased risk for premature delivery (< 37 weeks) following transplantation and maternal exposure to ASTAGRAF XL.

Data

Human Data

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies on the effects of tacrolimus in human pregnancy.

Safety data from the TPRI and postmarketing surveillance suggest infants exposed to tacrolimus *in utero* have an increased risk for miscarriage, pre-term delivery (< 37 weeks), low birth weight (< 2500 g), birth defects/congenital anomalies and fetal distress.

TPRI reported 450 and 241 total pregnancies in kidney and liver transplant recipients exposed to tacrolimus, respectively. The TPRI pregnancy outcomes are summarized in [Table 6](#). In the table below, the number of recipients exposed to tacrolimus concomitantly with mycophenolic acid (MPA) products during the preconception and first trimester periods is high (27% and 29% for kidney and liver transplant recipients, respectively). Because MPA products may also cause birth defects, the birth defect rate may be confounded and this should be taken into consideration when reviewing the data, particularly for birth defects. Birth defects observed include cardiac malformations, craniofacial malformations, renal/urogenital disorders, skeletal abnormalities, neurological abnormalities and multiple malformations.

Table 6: TPRI-Reported Pregnancy Outcomes in Transplant Recipients with Exposure to Tacrolimus

	Kidney	Liver
Pregnancy Outcomes¹	462	253
Miscarriage	24.5%	25%
Live births	331	180
Pre-term delivery (< 37 weeks)	49%	42%
Low birth weight (< 2500 g)	42%	30%
Birth defects	8% ²	5%

1. Includes multiple births and terminations.

2. Birth defect rate confounded by concomitant MPA products exposure in over half of offspring with birth defects.

Additional information reported by TPRI in pregnant transplant patients receiving tacrolimus included diabetes during pregnancy in 9% of kidney recipients and 13% of liver recipients and hypertension during pregnancy in 53% of kidney recipients and 16.2% of liver recipients.

Animal Data

Administration of oral tacrolimus to pregnant rabbits throughout organogenesis produced maternal toxicity and abortion at 0.32 mg/kg (0.5 times the maximum recommended clinical dose [0.2 mg/kg/day], on a mg/m² basis). At 1 mg/kg (1.6 times the maximum recommended clinical dose), embryofetal lethality and fetal malformations (ventricular hypoplasia, interventricular septal defect, bulbous aortic arch, stenosis of ductus arteriosus, omphalocele, gallbladder agenesis, skeletal anomalies) were observed. Administration of 3.2 mg/kg oral tacrolimus (2.6 times the maximum recommended clinical dose) to pregnant rats throughout organogenesis produced maternal toxicity/lethality, embryofetal lethality and decreased fetal body weight in the offspring of C-sectioned dams; and decreased pup viability and interventricular septal defect in offspring of dams that delivered.

In a peri-/postnatal development study, oral administration of tacrolimus to pregnant rats during late gestation (after organogenesis) and throughout lactation produced maternal toxicity, effects on parturition, and reduced pup viability at 3.2 mg/kg (2.6 times the maximum recommended clinical dose); among these pups that died early, an increased incidence of kidney hydronephrosis was observed. Reduced pup weight was observed at 1.0 mg/kg (0.8 times the maximum recommended clinical dose).

Administration of oral tacrolimus to rats prior to mating, and throughout gestation and lactation produced maternal toxicity/lethality, embryofetal loss and reduced pup viability at 3.2 mg/kg (2.6 times the maximum recommended clinical dose range). Interventricular septal defects, hydronephrosis, craniofacial malformations and skeletal effects were observed in offspring that died. Effects on parturition (incomplete delivery of nonviable pups) were observed at 1 mg/kg (0.8 times the maximum recommended clinical dose) [see [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)].

8.2 Lactation

Risk Summary

Controlled lactation studies have not been conducted in humans; however, tacrolimus has been reported to be present in

human milk. The effects of tacrolimus on the breastfed infant, or on milk production, have not been assessed. Tacrolimus is excreted in rat milk and in peri-/postnatal rat studies; exposure to tacrolimus during the postnatal period was associated with developmental toxicity in the offspring at clinically relevant doses [see [Pregnancy \(8.1\)](#) and [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)].

The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for ASTAGRAF XL and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from ASTAGRAF XL or from the underlying maternal condition.

8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

Contraception

ASTAGRAF XL can cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women. Advise female and male patients of reproductive potential to speak to their healthcare provider on family planning options including appropriate contraception prior to starting treatment with ASTAGRAF XL [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1\)](#) and [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)].

Infertility

Based on findings in animals, male and female fertility may be compromised by treatment with ASTAGRAF XL [see [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)].

8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of ASTAGRAF XL in *de novo* pediatric kidney transplant patients have been established. Use of ASTAGRAF XL in pediatric kidney transplant patients is based on adequate and well-controlled studies of ASTAGRAF XL in adult kidney transplant patients [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1, 14.2\)](#)] and supported by pharmacokinetic and safety data of ASTAGRAF XL in pediatric transplant patients 4 years of age and older who are able to swallow capsules intact and Prograf (tacrolimus) capsules in adult and pediatric transplant patients [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

De Novo Pediatric Kidney Transplant Patients

A pharmacokinetic and safety study included 25 *de novo* pediatric kidney transplant patients, 4 to 15 years of age, randomized to Prograf (N=12) or ASTAGRAF XL (N=13). Tacrolimus exposures for the two drug products were comparable on Days 7 and 28 [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)]. Among the 13 pediatric kidney transplant patients who completed 52 weeks on ASTAGRAF XL, there were no graft loss, deaths or episodes of biopsy-proven acute rejection [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#) and [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

Stable Pediatric Kidney Transplant Patients

Another pharmacokinetic and safety study included 48 stable pediatric kidney transplant patients, 5 to 16 years of age, who were converted from a Prograf-based regimen to ASTAGRAF XL. Tacrolimus systemic exposures for the two drug products were comparable [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)]. Acute rejections were reported in 2/48 kidney pediatric patients that responded to subsequent treatment. There were no graft failures or deaths following use of ASTAGRAF XL during the 54-week follow up [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of ASTAGRAF XL did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger patients. In Studies 1 and 2, 29 patients were 65 years of age and older, and 3 patients were 75 years of age and over [see [Clinical Studies \(14\)](#)]. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should

be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

8.6 Renal Impairment

The pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus in patients with renal impairment was similar to that in healthy subjects with normal renal function. However, due to its potential for nephrotoxicity, monitoring of renal function in patients with renal impairment is recommended; tacrolimus dosage should be reduced if indicated [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#) and [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)].

8.7 Hepatic Impairment

The mean clearance of tacrolimus was substantially lower in patients with severe hepatic impairment (mean Child-Pugh score: > 10) compared to healthy subjects with normal hepatic function [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)]. With greater tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations in patients with severe hepatic impairment, there is a greater risk of adverse reactions and dosage reduction is recommended [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3\)](#)]. For patients with moderate hepatic impairment, monitor tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations. For patients with mild hepatic impairment, no dosage adjustments are needed.

8.8 Race or Ethnicity

African-American patients may need to be titrated to higher dosages to attain comparable trough concentrations compared to Caucasian patients [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3\)](#), [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#), and [Clinical Studies \(14\)](#)].

African-American and Hispanic patients are at increased risk for new onset diabetes after transplant. Monitor blood glucose concentrations and treat appropriately [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)].

10 OVERDOSAGE

Postmarketing cases of overdose with tacrolimus have been reported. Overdosage adverse reactions included:

- nervous system disorders (tremor, headache, confusional state, balance disorders, encephalopathy, lethargy and somnolence)
- gastrointestinal disturbances (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea)
- abnormal renal function (increased blood urea nitrogen and elevated serum creatinine)
- urticaria
- hypertension
- peripheral edema, and
- infections [one fatal postmarketing case of bilateral pneumopathy and CMV infection was attributed to tacrolimus (extended-release) overdose].

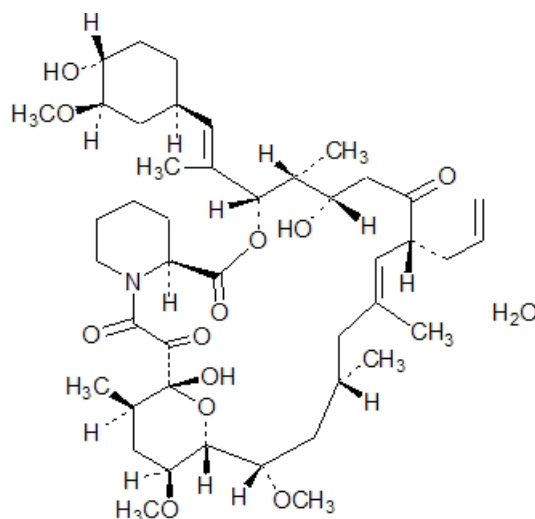
Based on the poor aqueous solubility and extensive erythrocyte and plasma protein binding, it is anticipated that tacrolimus is not dialyzable to any significant extent; there is no experience with charcoal hemoperfusion. The oral use of activated charcoal has been reported in treating acute overdoses, but experience has not been sufficient to warrant recommending its use. General supportive measures and treatment of specific symptoms should be followed in all cases of overdose.

11 DESCRIPTION

Tacrolimus is the active ingredient in ASTAGRAF XL. Tacrolimus is a calcineurin-inhibitor immunosuppressant produced by *Streptomyces tsukubaensis*. Chemically, tacrolimus is designated as [3S – [3R*[E(1S*, 3S*, 4S*)], 4S*, 5R*,

8*S**, 9*E*, 12*R**, 14*R**, 15*S**, 16*R**, 18*S**, 19*S**, 26*aR**) – 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 26*a* – hexadecahydro – 5, 19 – dihydroxy – 3 – [2 – (4 – hydroxy – 3 – methoxycyclo – hexyl) – 1 – methylethenyl] – 14, 16 – dimethoxy – 4, 10, 12, 18 – tetramethyl – 8 – (2 – propenyl) – 15, 19 – epoxy – 3*H* – pyrido[2, 1 – *c*][1, 4]oxaazacyclotricosine – 1, 7, 20, 21(4*H*, 23*H*) – tetrone, monohydrate.

The chemical structure of tacrolimus is:



Tacrolimus has an empirical formula of $C_{44}H_{69}NO_{12} \cdot H_2O$ and a formula weight of 822.03. Tacrolimus appears as white crystals or crystalline powder. It is practically insoluble in water, freely soluble in ethanol, and very soluble in methanol and chloroform.

ASTAGRAF XL is available for oral administration as hard gelatin capsules (tacrolimus extended-release capsules) containing the equivalent of 0.5 mg, 1 mg or 5 mg of anhydrous tacrolimus, USP. Inactive ingredients include ethylcellulose NF, hypromellose USP, magnesium stearate NF and lactose monohydrate NF. The ingredients are directly proportional across all capsule strengths. The capsule shell contains gelatin NF, titanium dioxide USP, ferric oxide NF, and sodium lauryl sulfate.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Tacrolimus binds to an intracellular protein, FKBP-12. A complex of tacrolimus-FKBP-12, calcium, calmodulin, and calcineurin (a ubiquitous mammalian intracellular enzyme) is then formed and the phosphatase activity of calcineurin is inhibited. Such inhibition prevents the dephosphorylation and translocation of various factors such as the nuclear factor of activated T-cells (NF-AT), and nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B-cells (NF- κ B).

Tacrolimus inhibits the expression and/or production of several cytokines that include interleukin (IL)-1 beta, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, gamma interferon, tumor necrosis factor-alpha, and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor. Tacrolimus also inhibits IL-2 receptor expression and nitric oxide release, induces apoptosis and production of transforming growth factor-beta that can lead to immunosuppressive activity. The net result is the inhibition of T-lymphocyte activation and proliferation as well as T-helper-cell-dependent B-cell response (i.e., immunosuppression).

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

[Table 7](#) summarizes the pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters of tacrolimus following oral administration of ASTAGRAF XL in healthy subjects and in kidney transplant patients. Whole blood tacrolimus concentrations in these PK studies were measured using validated HPLC/MS/MS assays.

Table 7: Pharmacokinetic Parameters of ASTAGRAF XL (Given Once Daily) in Healthy Subjects and in Kidney Transplant Patients (Under Fasted Conditions)

Population	ASTAGRAF XL Dose ^a	Day ^b	PK Parameters of ASTAGRAF XL			
			C _{max} ^c (ng/mL)	T _{max} ^d (hr)	AUC ₂₄ ^c (ng•hr/mL)	C ₂₄ ^f (ng/mL)
Healthy Subjects (N=24)	4 mg	Day 1	6.2 ± 2.1	2.0 [1.0-5.0]	74 ± 22	2.3 ± 0.8
	4 mg	Day 10	11.6 ± 3.4	2.0 [1.0-3.0]	155 ± 46	4.7 ± 1.5
Adult Kidney <i>De novo</i> ^e (N=17)	0.20 mg/kg	Day 1	26.0 ± 13.7	3.0 [2-24]	372 ± 202	12.1 ± 7.2
	0.19 mg/kg	Day 3	31.0 ± 13.9	2.0 [0.5-2.0]	437 ± 175	13.5 ± 5.6
	0.18 mg/kg	Day 7	32.2 ± 10.2	2.0 [1-6]	405 ± 117	11.4 ± 4.0
	0.18 mg/kg	Day 14	32.7 ± 9.0	2.0 [1-4]	412 ± 109	11.2 ± 3.9
Adult Kidney (6 months or greater post-transplant) (N=60)	5.2 mg/day ^g	Day 14 ^g	16.1 ± 5.3	2.0 [1.0 - 6.0]	222 ± 64	6.7 ± 1.9 ^h

^a Healthy adult subjects (actual administered dose of ASTAGRAF XL); adult *de novo* kidney transplant patients (actual group mean dose of ASTAGRAF XL).

^b Day of ASTAGRAF XL treatment and PK profiling.

^c Arithmetic means ± S.D.

^d Median [range].

^e “*De novo*” refers to immunosuppression starting at the time of transplantation; data from PK substudy of Study 2.

^f Tacrolimus trough concentration before the next dose.

^g Same daily dose of ASTAGRAF XL for 14-day period.

^h Correlation coefficient of AUC₂₄ to C_{min} r = 0.88.

In *de novo* adult kidney transplant patients, the tacrolimus systemic exposure, as assessed by AUC₂₄, for ASTAGRAF XL 0.2 mg/kg once daily on Day 1 post-transplant was 18% (Ratio [SD]: 0.822 [1.647]) lower when compared with Prograf (tacrolimus immediate-release) 0.2 mg/kg/day given twice daily. By Day 3 post-transplant, the AUC₂₄ was similar between the two formulations. On Day 14 (steady state), the AUC₂₄ for ASTAGRAF XL was 21% (Ratio [SD]: 1.207 [1.326]) higher than that of Prograf (tacrolimus immediate-release), at comparable trough concentrations (C₂₄).

Due to intersubject variability in tacrolimus PK, individualization of dosing regimen is necessary for optimal therapy [*see Dosage and Administration (2.3, 2.4)*].

Pharmacokinetic data indicate that whole blood concentrations rather than plasma concentrations serve as the more appropriate sampling compartment to describe tacrolimus PK.

Absorption

In healthy subjects, the administration of escalating ASTAGRAF XL doses ranging from 1.5 mg to 10 mg resulted in dose-proportional increases in tacrolimus AUC and C_{24h}, and no change in elimination half-life.

Food Effects

The presence of a meal affects the absorption of tacrolimus; the rate and extent of absorption is greatest under fasted conditions. In 24 healthy subjects, administration of ASTAGRAF XL immediately following a high-fat meal (150 protein calories, 250 carbohydrate calories, and 500 to 600 fat calories) reduced the C_{max} , AUC_t , and AUC_{inf} of tacrolimus by approximately 25% compared with fasting values. Food delayed the median T_{max} from 2 hours in the fasted state to 4 hours in the fed state; however, the terminal half-life remained 36 hours regardless of dosing conditions. The time when a meal is consumed also affected tacrolimus bioavailability. In 24 healthy subjects, when ASTAGRAF XL was administered 1.5 hours after consumption of a high-fat breakfast, tacrolimus exposure was decreased approximately 35%. Administration of ASTAGRAF XL 1 hour prior to a high-fat breakfast reduced tacrolimus exposure by 10%. ASTAGRAF XL capsules should be taken, preferably on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before a meal or at least 2 hours after a meal.

Chronopharmacokinetic Effect

In 23 healthy subjects, a diurnal effect on the absorption of tacrolimus was observed. Evening dosing of ASTAGRAF XL reduced AUC_{inf} by 35% relative to morning dosing. ASTAGRAF XL capsules should be taken consistently at the same time every morning.

Distribution

The plasma protein binding of tacrolimus is approximately 99% and is independent of concentration over a range of 5-50 ng/mL. Tacrolimus is bound mainly to albumin and alpha-1-acid glycoprotein, and has a high level of association with erythrocytes. The distribution of tacrolimus between whole blood and plasma depends on several factors, such as hematocrit, temperature at the time of plasma separation, drug concentration, and plasma protein concentration. In a U.S. trial in which tacrolimus was administered as tacrolimus immediate-release, the ratio of whole blood concentration to plasma concentration averaged 35 (range 12 to 67).

Elimination

Metabolism

The desired pharmacological activity of tacrolimus is primarily due to the parent drug. Tacrolimus is extensively metabolized by the mixed-function oxidase system, primarily the cytochrome P-450 system (CYP3A4 and CYP3A5). A metabolic pathway leading to the formation of 8 possible metabolites has been proposed. Demethylation and hydroxylation were identified as the primary mechanisms of biotransformation *in vitro*. The major metabolite identified in incubations with human liver microsomes is 13-demethyl tacrolimus. In *in vitro* studies, a 31-demethyl metabolite has been reported to have the same activity as tacrolimus.

Excretion

In a mass balance study of orally-administered radiolabeled tacrolimus to 6 healthy subjects, the mean recovery of the radiolabel was $94.9 \pm 30.7\%$. Fecal elimination accounted for $92.6 \pm 30.7\%$ and urinary elimination accounted for $2.3 \pm 1.1\%$ of the total radiolabel administered. The elimination half-life based on radioactivity was 31.9 ± 10.5 hours, whereas it was 48.4 ± 12.3 hours based on tacrolimus concentrations. The mean clearance of radiolabel was 0.226 ± 0.116 L/hr/kg and the mean clearance of tacrolimus was 0.172 ± 0.088 L/hr/kg.

The elimination half-life of tacrolimus after oral administration of 4 mg ASTAGRAF XL daily for 10 days was 38 ± 3 hours in 24 healthy subjects.

Specific Populations

Pediatric Patients

De Novo Pediatric Transplant Patients

A PK study to compare ASTAGRAF XL to Prograf capsules was conducted in 44 *de novo* pediatric transplant patients, including 25 pediatric *de novo* kidney transplant patients, 4 to 15 years of age (mean age of 10.6 years). These patients were administered a starting daily dose of 0.3 mg/kg/day of Prograf capsules divided into two daily doses or ASTAGRAF XL once daily. Overall, the tacrolimus PK parameters AUC₂₄ and C₂₄ are comparable among Prograf and ASTAGRAF XL on Days 7 and 28 ([Table 8](#)).

Table 8: Tacrolimus Pharmacokinetic Parameters Following Daily Doses of Prograf Capsules or ASTAGRAF XL in Pediatric De Novo Kidney Transplant Patients 4 to 15 Years of Age

Study Visit ^a	Mean ± SD (Range) PK Parameters for Prograf Capsules and ASTAGRAF XL		
	PK Parameters	Prograf Capsules ^b (N=10)	ASTAGRAF XL (N=10)
Day 1	AUC ₂₄ (ng·hr/mL)	280.4 ± 164.4 (145.0 – 688.4)	211.4 ± 128.2 (76.9 – 459.8)
	C _{max} (ng/mL)	23.1 ± 14.4 (8.2 – 55.7)	17.7 ± 11.1 (5.0 – 44.9)
	C ₂₄ (ng/mL) ^c	8.5 ± 5.4 (3.2 – 16.7)	6.7 ± 4.3 (2.0 – 16.5)
	T _{max} (hr) ^d	2.0 (0.9 – 4.0)	2.0 (1.0 – 12.0)
Day 7	AUC ₂₄ (ng·hr/mL)	347.2 ± 124.2 (153.7 – 561.8)	350.6 ± 92.7 (149.0 – 493.0)
	C _{max} (ng/mL)	28.7 ± 14.6 (10.5 – 49.0)	37.7 ± 13.9 (15.1 – 62.6)
	C ₂₄ (ng/mL) ^c	9.6 ± 2.8 (5.9 – 16.0)	8.4 ± 2.7 (4.3 – 14.4)
	T _{max} (hr) ^d	1.0 (1.0 – 2.3)	1.0 (1.0 – 2.0)
Day 28	AUC ₂₄ (ng·hr/mL)	323.6 ± 114.5 (234.5 – 614.0)	322.4 ± 78.1 (240.3 – 516.4)
	C _{max} (ng/mL)	28.5 ± 17.1 (17.5 – 70.1)	24.7 ± 4.8 (14.2 – 32.5)
	C ₂₄ (ng/mL) ^c	9.8 ± 3.1 (5.4 – 16.0)	9.2 ± 3.0 (5.1 – 15.9)
	T _{max} (hr) ^d	1.0 (1.0 – 4.0)	1.5 (1.0 – 4.0)

^a Study Visit Day on which PK profiles were collected following administration of Prograf capsules or ASTAGRAF XL.

^b PK estimates following the morning Prograf capsules dose are reported for T_{max} and C_{max}.

^c Observed whole blood tacrolimus trough levels at 12 hours following the evening dose of Prograf capsules or 24 hours after the morning dose of ASTAGRAF XL.

^d T_{max} - Reported as median (range).

Stable Pediatric Transplant Patients

Another PK study to compare ASTAGRAF XL to Prograf capsules was conducted in 81 stable pediatric transplant patients, including 48 pediatric kidney transplant patients, 5 to 16 years of age (mean age of 11.0 years). Pediatric kidney transplant patients who had been administered Prograf for at least 3 months prior to treatment were converted on a 1:1 (mg:mg) basis from Prograf, given in two divided doses, to ASTAGRAF XL once-daily. Overall, the tacrolimus AUC₂₄,

C_{max} , and C_{24} are comparable upon conversion from Prograf to ASTAGRAF XL on a 1:1 (mg:mg) basis in stable pediatric kidney transplant patients ([Table 9](#)).

Table 9: Tacrolimus Pharmacokinetic Parameters at Steady State Following 1:1 (mg:mg) Total Daily Dose Conversion from Prograf Capsules to ASTAGRAF XL in Stable Pediatric Kidney Transplant Patients 5 to 16 Years of Age

Organ Transplant Population	Mean ± SD (Range) PK Parameters for Prograf Capsules and ASTAGRAF XL		
	PK Parameters	Prograf Capsules	ASTAGRAF XL
Pediatric Kidney (N=45)	AUC ₂₄ (ng·hr/mL)	188.8 ± 53.5 (102.3 – 406.8)	173.2 ± 44.6 (80.9 – 262.5)
	C_{max} (ng/mL)	14.9 ± 5.8 (4.9 – 34.4)	12.5 ± 4.5 (5.4 – 24.4)
	C_{24}^a (ng/mL)	5.6 ± 1.9 (2.9 – 13.8)	5.1 ± 1.4 (2.0 – 8.4)

^a Observed whole blood tacrolimus trough levels at 12 hours following the evening dose of Prograf capsules and at 24 hours after the morning dose of ASTAGRAF XL once daily under steady-state conditions.

Patients with Renal Impairment

Tacrolimus pharmacokinetics following a single administration of tacrolimus immediate-release injection (administered as a continuous IV infusion) were determined in 12 patients (7 not on dialysis and 5 on dialysis, serum creatinine of 3.9 ± 1.6 and 12.0 ± 2.4 mg/dL, respectively) prior to their kidney transplant. The mean clearance of tacrolimus in patients with renal dysfunction given tacrolimus IV was similar to that in healthy subjects given tacrolimus IV and in healthy subjects given oral tacrolimus immediate-release [*see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.6\)](#)*].

Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Tacrolimus pharmacokinetics have been determined in six patients with mild hepatic impairment (mean Child-Pugh score: 6.2) following single oral administration of tacrolimus immediate-release. The mean clearance of tacrolimus in patients with mild hepatic impairment was not substantially different from that in healthy subjects. Tacrolimus pharmacokinetics were studied in six patients with severe hepatic impairment (mean Child-Pugh score: > 10). The mean clearance was substantially lower in patients with severe hepatic impairment [*see [Dosage and Administration \(2.3\)](#) and [Use in Specific Populations \(8.7\)](#)*].

Racial or Ethnic Groups

The pharmacokinetics of tacrolimus was studied following single oral administration of tacrolimus immediate-release (5 mg) in 10 African-American, 12 Latino-American, and 12 Caucasian healthy subjects [*see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#), [Use in Specific Populations \(8.8\)](#) and [Clinical Studies \(14\)](#)*]:

- The mean (± SD) tacrolimus C_{max} in African-Americans (23.6 ± 12.1 ng/mL) was lower than in Caucasians (40.2 ± 12.6 ng/mL) and Latino-Americans (36.2 ± 15.8 ng/mL).
- Mean AUC_{0-inf} tended to be lower in African-Americans (203 ± 115 ng·hr/mL) than Caucasians (344 ± 186 ng·hr/mL) and Latino-Americans (274 ± 150 ng·hr/mL).
- The mean (± SD) absolute oral bioavailability (F) in African-Americans ($12 \pm 4.5\%$) and Latino-Americans ($14 \pm 7.4\%$) was lower than in Caucasians ($19 \pm 5.8\%$).
- There was no significant difference in mean terminal half-life among the three ethnic groups (range from approximately 25 to 30 hours).

Male and Female Patients

A formal trial to evaluate the effect of gender on tacrolimus pharmacokinetics has not been conducted; however, there was no difference in total mg daily dosages between male and female patients receiving ASTAGRAF XL in the kidney

transplant trials. A retrospective comparison of pharmacokinetics in healthy subjects, and in kidney transplant patients indicated no gender-based differences.

Drug Interaction Studies

Because tacrolimus is metabolized mainly by CYP3A enzymes, drugs or substances known to inhibit these enzymes and/or are known CYP3A substrates may increase tacrolimus whole blood concentrations. Drugs known to induce CYP3A enzymes may decrease tacrolimus whole blood concentrations [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.10\)](#) and [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

Figures 1 and 2 summarize the PK data from drug interaction studies of ASTAGRAF XL or tacrolimus immediate-release capsules. These studies assessed the effect of co-administered drugs on tacrolimus PK in healthy subjects. Dosing adjustments, when using drugs that inhibit or increase CYP3A enzymes, may be necessary [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].

Figure 1: Effect of Co-administered Drugs on the Pharmacokinetics of Tacrolimus (when Given as ASTAGRAF XL)

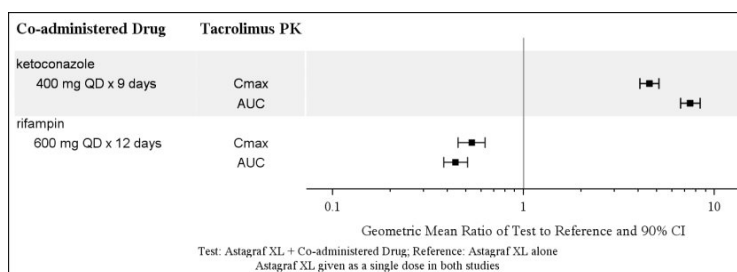
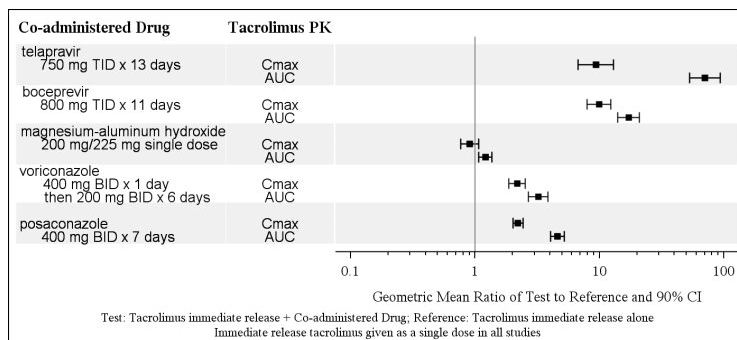


Figure 2: Effect of Co-administered Drugs on the Pharmacokinetics of Tacrolimus (when Given as Immediate-Release Tacrolimus)



Other Drug Interaction Studies

- Caspofungin** (see complete prescribing information for CANCIDAS): Caspofungin reduced the blood AUC₀₋₁₂ of tacrolimus by approximately 20%, peak blood concentration (C_{max}) by 16%, and 12-hour blood concentration (C_{12hr}) by 26% in healthy adult subjects when tacrolimus (2 doses of 0.1 mg/kg 12 hours apart) was administered on the 10th day of CANCIDAS 70 mg daily, as compared to results from a control period in which tacrolimus was administered alone [see [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)]. The mechanism of interaction has not been confirmed.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenesis

Carcinogenicity studies were conducted in male and female rats and mice. In the 80-week mouse oral study and in the 104-week rat oral study, no relationship of tumor incidence to tacrolimus dosage was found. The highest dose used in the mouse was 3 mg/kg/day (0.49 times the AUC at the maximum clinical dose of 0.2 mg/kg/day) and in the rat was 5 mg/kg/day (0.14 times the AUC at the maximum clinical dose of 0.2 mg/kg/day) [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

A 104-week dermal carcinogenicity study was performed in mice with tacrolimus ointment (0.03%-3%), equivalent to tacrolimus doses of 1.1-118 mg/kg/day or 3.3-354 mg/m²/day. In the study, the incidence of skin tumors was minimal and the topical application of tacrolimus was not associated with skin tumor formation under ambient room lighting. However, a statistically significant elevation in the incidence of pleomorphic lymphoma in high-dose male (25/50) and female animals (27/50), and in the incidence of undifferentiated lymphoma in high-dose female animals (13/50), was noted in the mouse dermal carcinogenicity study. Lymphomas were noted in the mouse dermal carcinogenicity study at a daily dose of 3.5 mg/kg (0.1% tacrolimus ointment; 2.4-fold the human exposure in stable adult kidney transplant patients > 6 months post-transplant). No drug-related tumors were noted in the mouse dermal carcinogenicity study at a daily dose of 1.1 mg/kg (0.03% tacrolimus ointment). The relevance of topical administration of tacrolimus in the setting of systemic tacrolimus use is unknown.

The implications of these carcinogenicity studies are limited; doses of tacrolimus were administered that likely induced immunosuppression in these animals, impairing their immune system's ability to inhibit unrelated carcinogenesis.

Mutagenesis

No evidence of genotoxicity was seen in bacterial (*Salmonella* and *E. coli*) or mammalian (Chinese hamster lung-derived cells) *in vitro* assays of mutagenicity, the *in vitro* CHO/HGPRT assay of mutagenicity, or *in vivo* clastogenicity assays performed in mice; tacrolimus did not cause unscheduled DNA synthesis in rodent hepatocytes.

Impairment of Fertility

Tacrolimus subcutaneously administered to male rats at paternally toxic doses of 2 mg/kg/day [1.6 times the maximum recommended clinical dose (0.2 mg/kg/day) on a mg/m² basis] or 3 mg/kg/day (2.4 times the maximum recommended clinical dose) resulted in a dose-related decrease in sperm count.

Tacrolimus administered orally at 1.0 mg/kg (0.8 times the maximum clinical dose) to male and female rats, prior to and during mating, as well as to dams during gestation and lactation, was associated with embryoletality and adverse effects on female reproduction. Effects on female reproductive function (parturition) and embryoletal effects were indicated by a higher rate of pre- and post-implantation loss and increased numbers of undelivered and nonviable pups. When administered at 3.2 mg/kg (2.6 times the maximum clinical dose range based on body surface area), tacrolimus was associated with maternal and paternal toxicity as well as reproductive toxicity including marked adverse effects on estrus cycles, parturition, pup viability, and pup malformations.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

14.1 ASTAGRAF XL with Basiliximab Induction

Study 1 was a 12-month, randomized, open-label trial of ASTAGRAF XL (N=214) compared to active-control of tacrolimus (Prograf) immediate-release (N=212), conducted primarily in the U.S. in patients who were a recipient of a primary or retransplanted non-HLA-identical living or deceased donor kidney transplant. All patients received basiliximab induction and concomitant mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and corticosteroids. The study population was 17 to 77 years of age, the mean age was 48 years; 64% were male and 36% were female; 73% were Caucasian, 22% were African-

American, 2% were Asian, and 3% were categorized as other races. Living donors provided 49% of the organs and 51% of patients received a kidney transplant from a deceased donor with a mean cold ischemia time of 19 hours. The most frequent diseases leading to transplantation were balanced between the groups and included nephrosclerosis/hypertensive nephropathy, diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephritis, and polycystic kidney disease. In the study, 97% of patients had no previous transplant and 3% had a previous transplant.

Study Medications

ASTAGRAF XL or Control [Prograf (tacrolimus) capsules]

The initial dose of ASTAGRAF XL was administered prior to reperfusion or within 48 hours after completion of the transplant procedure. The protocol-defined initial post-operative daily doses were 0.15 to 0.20 mg per kg given as a single dose in the morning for ASTAGRAF XL and 0.075 to 0.10 mg per kg twice daily for control. The ASTAGRAF XL and control dosage was then adjusted on the basis of safety and efficacy and a target whole blood tacrolimus trough concentration range of 7 to 16 ng/mL for the first 90 days post-transplant and 5 to 15 ng/mL thereafter.

The average recorded starting tacrolimus daily dose, given any time up to day 2 post-transplant, was higher for ASTAGRAF XL than for control (0.14 mg per kg per day versus 0.10 mg per kg per day). Thereafter, to achieve comparable mean tacrolimus trough concentrations, on average 15% higher total mean daily doses of tacrolimus were required for ASTAGRAF XL than for control.

Tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations were monitored on Days 3, 7, 10, 14, and 21, then Months 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12. Table 10 shows the tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations measured at protocol-specified time points for ASTAGRAF XL. Approximately 80% of ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients maintained tacrolimus whole trough blood concentrations between 5 to 17 ng/mL during months 1 through 2 and between 4 to 12 ng/mL from months 3 through 12.

Table 10: Observed Tacrolimus Whole Blood Trough Concentrations in ASTAGRAF XL-Treated Kidney Transplant Patients in Study 1

Scheduled Visit	Tacrolimus Whole Blood Trough Concentrations (ng/mL) ¹ [Median (10 th to 90 th Percentile)]
Day 3	9.6 (4.9 to 20.2)
Day 7	9.1 (4.4 to 16.8)
Day 14	10.0 (5.7 to 16.9)
Month 1	10.5 (5.6 to 17.1)
Month 2	9.4 (6.1 to 14.2)
Month 6	7.7 (4.4 to 11.5)
Month 12	7.2 (3.8 to 10.4)

1. Immunoassay was used in most laboratories.

African-American patients required higher ASTAGRAF XL dosages to attain similar trough concentrations as Caucasian patients (see [Table 11](#)).

Table 11: ASTAGRAF XL Dosages and Mean Whole Blood Trough Concentrations in African-American and Caucasian Kidney Transplant Patients in Study 1

Time After Transplant	Caucasian Patients N=160		African-American Patients N=41	
	Dose (mg/kg)	Mean Trough Concentration (ng/mL)	Dose (mg/kg)	Mean Trough Concentration (ng/mL)
Day 7	0.14	10.65	0.14	7.78
Month 1	0.14	11.11	0.17	10.92
Month 6	0.10	7.95	0.13	8.42
Month 12	0.09	7.53	0.12	7.33

MMF

The initial dose of MMF was 1 gram administered orally or intravenously prior to or within 48 hours of completion of the transplant procedure. Subsequent MMF was administered orally 1 gram twice daily or up to 1.5 grams twice daily in African-American patients. Dose-equivalent three times daily or four times daily dosing was permitted if MMF tolerability was a concern.

The MMF dosages administered by time period in ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients are shown in [Table 12](#). The MMF dosage was reduced to less than 2 grams per day by month 12 in 56% of ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients. Approximately 57% of the MMF dose reductions were because of adverse reactions in the ASTAGRAF XL group [see [Adverse Reactions \(6.1\)](#)].

Table 12: Proportion of Patients Who Received 2 grams (or less than or more than 2 grams) of MMF by Time Period in ASTAGRAF XL-Treated Patients in Study 1

Time period (Days)	Patients on MMF N	Time-averaged MMF dosage ^a		
		Less than 2 grams per day	2 grams per day	Greater than 2 grams per day
1-30	211	30%	64%	6%
31-90	208	38%	57%	5%
91-180	205	49%	48%	3%
181-365	201	51%	47%	3%

^a Time-averaged MMF dosage is the total MMF dosage per day divided by the duration of treatment. A time-averaged MMF dosage of 2 grams per day means that the MMF dosage was not reduced in those patients during the time period.

Basiliximab Induction

All patients were administered 2 doses of basiliximab induction therapy (20 mg intravenously) with the first dose on day 0 before skin closure and the second dose between days 3 and 5.

Steroids

All patients were administered an intravenous bolus of 500 to 1000 mg of methylprednisolone (or an equivalent steroid dose) on day 0 followed by oral administration of 200 mg methylprednisolone (or an equivalent dose of steroid) on day 1 and subsequent tapering to achieve a targeted mean prednisone dose of 5 to 10 mg/day after the first 3 months.

Efficacy Results

The efficacy failure rate, defined as the percentage of patients with biopsy-proven acute rejection (BPAR), graft failure, death, and/or lost to follow at 12 months, is shown in [Table 13](#) for the intent-to-treat population, as well as the rates of the individual events.

Table 13: Incidence of BPAR, Graft Loss, Death or Lost to Follow-up at 12 Months in Kidney Transplant Patients in Study 1

	ASTAGRAF XL + MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction (N=214)	Prograf + MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction (N=212)
Efficacy Failure	30 (14.0%)	32 (15.1%)
Treatment Difference (95% CI ^a)	-1.1% (-7.8%, +5.6%)	
Efficacy Failure Endpoints		
Biopsy-Proven Acute Rejection	22 (10.3%)	16 (7.5%)
Graft Loss	5 (2.3%)	9 (4.2%)
Death	3 (1.4%)	9 (4.2%)
Lost to follow-up	3 (1.4%)	4 (1.9%)

^a 95% confidence interval calculated using normal approximation.

Glomerular Filtration Rate

The estimated mean glomerular filtration rates, using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) formula, by treatment group at Month 12 in the intent-to-treat population is shown in [Table 14](#).

Table 14: Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (mL/min/1.73m²) by MDRD Formula at 12 Months Post-Transplant in Study 1

	ASTAGRAF XL + MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction (N=201)	Prograf + MMF, steroids, basiliximab induction (N=202)
Month 1 Baseline Mean (SD)	56 (20)	56 (21)
Month 12 LOCF ^a		
Mean (Standard deviation)	58 (21)	56 (23)
Mean Difference XL minus Prograf (tacrolimus immediate-release) ^b	+2.3 (-1.2, +5.8)	

^a Last observation carried forward (LOCF); patients who died, lost the graft, or were lost to follow-up are imputed as zeroes.

^b Results from analysis of covariance model with Month 1 baseline as a covariate.

14.2 Clinical Study of ASTAGRAF XL without Induction

Study 2 was a 12-month, randomized, double-blind trial of ASTAGRAF XL (N=331) compared to active control of tacrolimus (Prograf) immediate-release (N=336), in non-U.S. patients who received a primary or retransplanted non-HLA-identical living or deceased donor kidney transplant. This trial was designed to remain double-blind until the last patient enrolled had completed 24 weeks on study treatment. Patients with a high immunologic risk defined as a panel

reactive antibody (PRA) grade > 50% in the previous 6 months and/or with a previous graft survival of less than 12 months due to immunologic reasons were excluded, as were patients of donor kidneys with cold ischemia time > 30 hours, or donor kidneys from a non heart-beating donor. The patient treatment assignments remained blinded for 12 months for 96% of the patients participating in the trial.

All patients received concomitant MMF and corticosteroids without induction. The population was 18 to 65 years of age; the mean age was 48 years; 63% of the study population was male; 82% were Caucasian, 5% were African-American, 2% were Asian, and 11% were categorized as other races. Living donors provided 27% of the organs and 73% of patients received a kidney transplant from a deceased donor with a mean cold ischemia time of 17 hours. The most frequent diseases leading to transplantation were balanced between the groups and included nephrosclerosis/hypertensive nephropathy, diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephritis, and polycystic kidney disease.

Study Medication

ASTAGRAF XL or Control [Prograf (tacrolimus) capsules]

The protocol-specified initial preoperative dose for both ASTAGRAF XL and control was 0.1 mg per kg given orally in one dose within 12 hours prior to reperfusion, given at any time of the day. The initial post-operative tacrolimus daily dose (0.2 mg per kg per day) was given orally in one dose, preferably in the morning for ASTAGRAF XL, and was given as 0.1 mg/kg twice daily for control. Subsequent doses of ASTAGRAF XL and control were adjusted on the basis of clinical evidence of efficacy, occurrence of adverse events and according to whole blood tacrolimus trough concentration target ranges of 10 to 15 ng/mL for the first 28 days post-transplant, 5 to 15 ng/mL from Day 29 to Day 168, 5 to 10 ng/mL thereafter.

The actual tacrolimus doses on day 0 (0.1 mg per kg per day preoperative) and day 1 (0.2 mg per kg per day post-operative) were comparable between ASTAGRAF XL and control. Thereafter, to achieve comparable mean tacrolimus trough concentrations, on average, 25% higher total mean daily doses of tacrolimus were required for ASTAGRAF XL than for control.

Tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations were monitored on Days 1, 3, 7, 14, then Months 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, and then every 3 months.

[Table 15](#) shows the tacrolimus whole blood trough concentrations measured at protocol-specified time points for ASTAGRAF XL. Approximately 80% of ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients maintained tacrolimus whole trough blood concentrations between 6 to 20 ng/mL during months 1 through 2, and between 6 to 14 ng/mL from months 3 through 12.

Table 15: Observed Tacrolimus Whole Blood Trough Concentrations for ASTAGRAF XL Kidney Transplant Patients Evaluated in Study 2

Scheduled Visit	Tacrolimus Whole Blood Trough Concentrations (ng/mL) ¹ [Median (10 th to 90 th Percentile)]
Day 3	13.8 (6.5 to 25.5)
Day 7	10.1 (5.5 to 17.3)
Day 14	10.8 (6.7 to 17.9)
Month 1	12.0 (7.5 to 17.6)
Month 2	11.1 (6.6 to 17.3)
Month 6	9.2 (5.7 to 13.5)
Month 12	8.0 (5.1 to 13.8)

1. Immunoassay was used in most laboratories.

MMF

The initial dose of MMF was 1 gram orally twice daily starting preoperatively and given for the first 14 days of the study. Thereafter the MMF dose was reduced to 0.5 grams twice daily to be maintained throughout the study.

The MMF dosages administered by time period in ASTAGRAF XL-treated patients are shown in [Table 16](#). The MMF dosage was reduced to 0.5 grams twice daily starting after day 14 in the majority of patients.

Table 16: Distribution (%) of ASTAGRAF XL-Treated Patients by Average Daily Dosage of MMF Received by Time Period in Study 2

Time period (Days)	Patients on MMF	Time-averaged MMF dosage ^{a, b}		
	N	Less than 1 gram per day	1 gram to less than 2 grams per day	2 grams per day
1-30	331	1%	78%	21%
31-90	303	8%	87%	6%
91-180	281	12%	85%	3%
181-365	258	15%	83%	2%

^a Time-averaged MMF dosage is the total MMF dosage per day divided by the duration of treatment. A time-averaged MMF dosage of 2 grams per day means that the MMF dosage was not reduced in those patients during the time period.

^b One patient had a time-averaged dose during the first and last period of > 2 gm/day.

Steroids

An intravenous (IV) bolus of up to 1000 mg methylprednisolone (or equivalent) was administered perioperatively (Day 0) with a second IV bolus of 125 mg being administered 1 day after reperfusion (Day 1). On Day 2, oral prednisone was started at 20 mg per day. Thereafter, the dose of oral prednisone (or equivalent) was tapered to a dose of 0 to 5 mg/day.

No Antibody Induction

Antibody induction therapy was not allowed.

Efficacy Results

The efficacy failure rate, defined as the percentage of patients with biopsy-proven acute rejection (BPAR), graft failure, death, and/or lost to follow at 12 months, is shown in [Table 17](#) for the intent-to-treat population, as well as the rates of the individual events. About 1% of randomized patients were not transplanted and were not included in the ITT analysis.

Table 17: Incidence of BPAR, Graft Loss, Death or Lost to Follow-up at 12 Months in Kidney Transplant Patients in Study 2

	ASTAGRAF XL + MMF and steroids (N=331)	Prograf + MMF and steroids (N=336)
Efficacy Failure	93 (28.1%)	78 (23.2%)
Treatment Difference (95% CI ^a)	+4.9% (-1.7%, +11.5%)	
Efficacy Failure Endpoints		
Biopsy-Proven Acute Rejection	68 (20.5%)	54 (16.1%)
Graft loss	28 (8.5%)	24 (7.1%)
Death	10 (3%)	8 (2.4%)
Lost to follow-up	4 (1.2%)	7 (2.1%)

^a 95% confidence interval calculated using normal approximation.

Glomerular Filtration Rate

The estimated mean glomerular filtration rates, using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) formula, by treatment group at Month 12 in the intent-to-treat population in Study 2 is shown in [Table 18](#).

Table 18: Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (mL/min/1.73m²) by MDRD Formula at 12 Months Post-Kidney Transplant in Study 2

	ASTAGRAF XL + MMF and steroids (N=287)	Prograf + MMF and steroids (N=300)
Month 1 Baseline Mean (SD)	51 (19)	52 (20)
Month 12 LOCF ^a		
Mean (Standard deviation)	52 (20)	55 (19)
Mean Difference ASTAGRAF XL minus Prograf (tacrolimus immediate-release) ^b	-1.8 (-4.6, +0.8)	




^a Last observation carried forward (LOCF); patients who died, lost the graft or were lost to follow-up are imputed as zeroes.

^b Results from analysis of covariance model with Month 1 baseline as a covariate.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

ASTAGRAF XL (tacrolimus) extended-release capsules are supplied in short, square bottles (see [Table 19](#)).

Table 19: Strengths of ASTAGRAF XL

0.5 mg	<p>Oblong capsule with a light yellow cap and orange body. Capsule is branded with red “ 647” on capsule body and “0.5 mg” on the capsule cap. The bottle packaging is branded with a brown stripe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-count in short, square bottles with a brown cap (NDC 0469-0647-73)
1 mg	<p>Oblong capsule with a white cap and orange body. Capsule is branded with red “ 677” on capsule body and “1 mg” on the capsule cap. The bottle packaging is branded with a blue stripe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-count in short, square bottles with a blue cap (NDC 0469-0677-73)
5 mg	<p>Oblong capsule with a grayish-red cap and orange body. Capsule is branded with red “ 687” on capsule body and “5 mg” on the capsule cap. The bottle packaging is branded with an orange stripe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-count in short, square bottles with an orange cap (NDC 0469-0687-73)

Store and Dispense

Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide).

17.1 Administration

Advise patients or caregivers to:

- Inspect their ASTAGRAF XL medicine when they receive a new prescription and before taking it. If the appearance of the capsule is not the same as usual, or if dosage instructions have changed, advise patients to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible to make sure that they have the right medicine. Other tacrolimus products cannot be substituted for ASTAGRAF XL [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)].
- Take ASTAGRAF XL at the same time every day to achieve consistent blood concentrations.
- Take ASTAGRAF XL in the morning, on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after breakfast, to achieve maximum possible blood concentrations of the drug.
- Swallow capsule whole with liquid. Do not chew, divide or crush capsule.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages, grapefruit, and grapefruit juice while on ASTAGRAF XL [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.1\)](#) and [Drug Interactions \(7.2\)](#)].
- Take a missed dose of ASTAGRAF XL as soon as possible but not more than 14 hours after the scheduled time (i.e., for a missed 8 AM dose, take by 10 PM). Beyond the 14-hour timeframe, instruct the patient to wait until the usual scheduled time the following morning to take the next scheduled dose. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.

17.2 Development of Lymphoma and Other Malignancies

Inform patients that they are at an increased risk of developing lymphomas and other malignancies, particularly of the skin, due to immunosuppression. Advise patients to limit exposure to sunlight and ultraviolet (UV) light by wearing protective clothing and using a broad spectrum sunscreen with a high protection factor [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

17.3 Increased Risk of Infection

Inform patients that they are at an increased risk of developing a variety of infections, including opportunistic infections, due to immunosuppression and to contact their physician if they develop any symptoms of infection such as fever, sweats or chills, cough or flu-like symptoms, muscle aches, or warm, red, painful areas of the skin [see [Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)].

17.4 New Onset Diabetes after Transplant

Inform patients that ASTAGRAF XL can cause diabetes mellitus and should be advised to contact their physician if they develop frequent urination, increased thirst or hunger [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)].

17.5 Nephrotoxicity

Inform patients that ASTAGRAF XL can have toxic effects on the kidney that should be monitored. Advise patients to attend all visits and complete all blood tests ordered by their medical team [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)].

17.6 Neurotoxicity

Inform patients that they are at risk of developing adverse neurologic reactions including seizure, altered mental status, and tremor. Advise patients to contact their physician should they develop vision changes, delirium, or tremors [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.7\)](#)].

17.7 Hyperkalemia

Inform patients that ASTAGRAF XL can cause hyperkalemia. Monitoring of potassium levels may be necessary, especially with concomitant use of other drugs known to cause hyperkalemia [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8\)](#)].

17.8 Hypertension

Inform patients that ASTAGRAF XL can cause high blood pressure which may require treatment with anti-hypertensive therapy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.9\)](#)]. Advise patients to monitor their blood pressure.

17.9 Thrombotic Microangiopathy

Inform patients that ASTAGRAF XL can cause blood clotting problems. The risk of this occurring increases when patients take ASTAGRAF XL and sirolimus or everolimus concomitantly, or when patients develop certain infections. Advise them to seek medical attention promptly if they develop fever, petechiae or bruises, fatigue, confusion, jaundice, oliguria [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.14\)](#)].

17.10 Drug Interactions

Instruct patients to tell their healthcare providers when they start or stop taking any medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, herbal and dietary supplements. Some medications could alter tacrolimus concentrations in the blood and thus may require the adjustment of the dosage of ASTAGRAF XL. Advise patients to avoid grapefruit, grapefruit juice and alcoholic beverages [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.10\)](#) and [Drug Interactions \(7\)](#)].

17.11 Pregnancy, Lactation and Infertility

Inform women of childbearing potential that ASTAGRAF XL can harm the fetus. Instruct male and female patients to discuss with their healthcare provider family planning options including appropriate contraception. Also, discuss with pregnant patients the risks and benefits of breastfeeding their infant [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1, 8.2, 8.3\)](#)].

Encourage female transplant patients who become pregnant and male patients who have fathered a pregnancy, exposed to immunosuppressants including tacrolimus, to enroll in the voluntary Transplantation Pregnancy Registry International. To enroll or register, patients can call the toll free number 1-877-955-6877 or <https://www.transplantpregnancyregistry.org/> [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1\)](#)].

Based on animal studies, ASTAGRAF XL may affect fertility in males and females [see [Nonclinical Toxicology \(13.1\)](#)].

17.12 Immunizations

Inform patients that ASTAGRAF XL can interfere with the usual response to immunizations and that they should avoid live vaccines [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.12\)](#)].

Product of Japan

Distributed by:

Astellas Pharma US, Inc.

Northbrook, IL 60062

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Prograf[®] is a registered trademark of Astellas Pharma Inc.

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MEDICATION GUIDE
ASTAGRAF XL® [as' tah graf ex el']
(tacrolimus)
extended-release capsules

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking ASTAGRAF XL and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment. If you have any questions about ASTAGRAF XL, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

What is the most important information I should know about ASTAGRAF XL?

ASTAGRAF XL can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Increased risk of cancer.** People who take ASTAGRAF XL have an increased risk of getting some kinds of cancer, including skin and lymph gland cancer (lymphoma).
- **Increased risk of infection.** ASTAGRAF XL is a medicine that affects your immune system. ASTAGRAF XL can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections. Serious infections can happen in people receiving ASTAGRAF XL that can cause death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have symptoms of an infection such as:**
 - fever
 - cough or flu-like symptoms
 - warm, red, or painful areas on your skin
 - sweats or chills
 - muscle aches
- **Increased risk of death in females who have had a liver transplant.** You should not take ASTAGRAF XL if you have had a liver transplant without talking to your healthcare provider.

What is ASTAGRAF XL?

- ASTAGRAF XL is a prescription medicine used with other medicines to help prevent organ rejection in people who have had a kidney transplant.
- ASTAGRAF XL is an extended-release capsule and is not the same as tacrolimus immediate-release capsules, tacrolimus for oral suspension or tacrolimus extended-release tablets. Your healthcare provider should decide what medicine is right for you.

Who should not take ASTAGRAF XL?

- **Do not** take ASTAGRAF XL if you are allergic to tacrolimus or any of the ingredients in ASTAGRAF XL. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in ASTAGRAF XL.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ASTAGRAF?

Before you take ASTAGRAF XL tell your healthcare provider if you:

- plan to receive any live vaccines. Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure if your vaccine is a live vaccine.
- have or have had liver, kidney, or heart problems **or** any other medical conditions.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. ASTAGRAF XL may harm your unborn baby.
 - If you are able to become pregnant, you should use effective birth control before and during treatment with ASTAGRAF XL. Talk to your healthcare provider before starting treatment with ASTAGRAF XL about birth control methods that may be right for you.
 - Males who have female partners that are able to become pregnant should also use effective birth control before and during treatment with ASTAGRAF XL. Talk to your healthcare provider before starting treatment with ASTAGRAF XL about birth control methods that may be right for you.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for females who become pregnant and males who have fathered a pregnancy during treatment with ASTAGRAF XL. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about your health and of your baby. To enroll in this voluntary registry, call 1-877-955-6877 or go to <https://www.transplantpregnancyregistry.org/>.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. ASTAGRAF XL passes into your breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will breastfeed while taking ASTAGRAF XL.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, natural, herbal or nutritional supplements. ASTAGRAF XL may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how ASTAGRAF XL works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- sirolimus (RAPAMUNE): You should not take ASTAGRAF XL if you take sirolimus
- cyclosporine (GENGRAF, NEORAL, and SANDIMMUNE)
- medicines called aminoglycosides that are used to treat bacterial infections
- ganciclovir (CYTOVENE IV, VALCYTE)
- amphotericin B (ABELCET, AMBISOME)
- cisplatin
- antiviral medicines called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors
- antiviral medicines called protease inhibitors
- water pill (diuretic)
- medicine to treat high blood pressure
- nelfinavir (VIRACEPT)
- telaprevir (INCIVEK)
- boceprevir
- ritonavir (KALETRA, NORVIR, TECHNIVIE, VIEKIRA PAK, VIEKIRA XR)
- letermovir (PREVYMIS)
- ketoconazole
- itraconazole (ONMEL, SPORANOX)
- voriconazole (VFEND)
- caspofungin (CANCIDAS)
- clarithromycin (BIAXIN, BIAXIN XL, PREVPAC)
- rifampin (RIFADIN, RIFAMATE, RIFATER, RIMACTANE)
- rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN)
- amiodarone (NEXTERONE, PACERONE)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if you take any of the medicines listed above.

ASTAGRAF XL may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how ASTAGRAF XL works.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take ASTAGRAF XL?

- Take ASTAGRAF XL exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Your healthcare provider may change your dose if needed. **Do not** stop taking or change your dose of ASTAGRAF XL without talking to your healthcare provider.
- Take ASTAGRAF XL capsules whole. Do not break, crush, chew, or dissolve ASTAGRAF XL capsules before swallowing. If you cannot swallow ASTAGRAF XL capsules whole, tell your healthcare provider.
- Take ASTAGRAF XL at the same time each morning, preferably on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before, or at least 2 hours after, you have eaten a meal.
- If you miss your dose of ASTAGRAF XL, it should be taken as soon as possible, but no longer than 14 hours after your regularly scheduled time. If it is longer than 14 hours, the missed dose should be skipped and the next dose should be taken the following morning at your regularly scheduled time. **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time.
- If you take too much ASTAGRAF XL, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking ASTAGRAF XL?

- Live vaccines such as flu vaccine through your nose, measles, mumps, rubella, polio by mouth, BCG (TB vaccine), yellow fever, chicken pox (varicella) or typhoid.
- Exposure to sunlight and UV light such as tanning machines. Wear protective clothing and use a sunscreen.
- You should not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking ASTAGRAF XL.
- You should not drink alcohol when taking ASTAGRAF XL.

What are the possible side effects of ASTAGRAF XL?

ASTAGRAF XL may cause serious side effects, including:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about ASTAGRAF XL?”

- **Problems from medication errors such as graft rejection and other serious reactions.** People who take ASTAGRAF XL have sometimes been given the wrong medicine because some medicines have the same ingredient (tacrolimus) as ASTAGRAF XL. Serious reactions have happened including graft rejection. **Check your ASTAGRAF XL when you get a new prescription to make sure you have received the right medicine.**
 - Call your healthcare provider right away if you think you were given the wrong medicine.
 - Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what ASTAGRAF XL should look like.
- **high blood sugar (diabetes).** Your healthcare provider may do certain tests to check for diabetes while you take ASTAGRAF XL. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have:
 - frequent urination
 - increased thirst or hunger
 - blurred vision
 - confusion
 - drowsiness
 - loss of appetite
 - fruity smell on your breath
 - nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain
- **kidney problems.** Kidney problems are serious and common side effects of ASTAGRAF XL. Your healthcare provider may do certain tests to check your kidney function while you take ASTAGRAF XL.
- **nervous system problems.** Nervous system problems are a serious and common side effect of ASTAGRAF XL. Call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you get any of these symptoms while taking ASTAGRAF XL. These could be signs of serious nervous system problems:
 - confusion
 - changes in alertness
 - muscle tremors
 - numbness and tingling
 - headache
 - seizures
 - vision changes
- **high levels of potassium in your blood.** Your healthcare provider may do certain tests to check your potassium level while you take ASTAGRAF XL.
- **high blood pressure.** High blood pressure is a serious and common side effect of ASTAGRAF XL. Your healthcare provider will monitor your blood pressure while you take ASTAGRAF XL and may ask you to check your blood pressure at home.
- **changes in the electrical activity of your heart (QT prolongation).**
- **severe low blood cell count (anemia).**
- **blood clotting problems:** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have fever and bruising under the skin that may appear as red dots, with or without unexplained tiredness, confusion, yellowing of the skin or eyes, decreased urination. When taken with sirolimus or everolimus, the risk of developing these symptoms may increase.

The most common side effects of ASTAGRAF XL are diarrhea, constipation, nausea, swelling of the hands, ankles, or legs, and tremors (shaking of the body).

These are not all the possible side effects of ASTAGRAF XL. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store ASTAGRAF XL?

- Store ASTAGRAF XL at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).
- Safely throw away medicine that is out of date or no longer needed.
- **Keep ASTAGRAF XL and all medicines out of reach of children.**

General information about the safe and effective use of ASTAGRAF XL.

- Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use ASTAGRAF XL for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ASTAGRAF XL to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.
- This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about ASTAGRAF XL. If you would like more information, talk to your healthcare provider. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about ASTAGRAF XL that is written for health professionals.

What are the ingredients in ASTAGRAF XL?

Active ingredient: tacrolimus.

Inactive ingredients:

- **The capsule contains:** ethylcellulose NF, hypromellose USP, magnesium stearate NF, and lactose monohydrate NF

This label may not be the latest approved by FDA.
For current labeling information, please visit <https://www.fda.gov/drugsatfda>

• **The capsule shell contains:** gelatin NF, titanium dioxide USP, ferric oxide NF, and sodium lauryl sulfate
Distributed by: **Astellas Pharma US, Inc.**, Northbrook, IL 60062
ASTAGRAF XL[®] is a registered trademark of Astellas Pharma Inc.
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This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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