

Tacrolimus (PROGRAF®) (“tacro” for short)

Uses:

PROGRAF® is used to prevent or treat rejection by suppressing the body’s immune response to the transplanted heart.

Schedule:

PROGRAF® is taken twice a day. Each dose should be taken 12 hours apart, for example 9:00 am and 9:00 pm.

Dose Changes and Lab Monitoring:

Your dose of PROGRAF® may change based on a blood level drawn by the lab. Once discharged you will obtain weekly labs, typically on Monday. Your dose is based on the level of this medication in your blood.

- DO get your labs in the early morning prior to your scheduled morning dose
- DO NOT take your morning dose of PROGRAF® prior to your lab work
- When your transplant coordinator receives results of your bloodwork you will receive a call to let you know if you need to change your dose.

Possible Side effects:

- Headaches
- Numbness or tingling of hands/feet
- Trouble sleeping
- High blood pressure
- Decrease in magnesium levels
- Abnormal kidney function
- Tremors
- Hair loss
- Increased risk of infection
- High blood sugar
- Increase in potassium levels
- Stomach discomfort

Special Notes:

- DO NOT drink grapefruit juice
- DO separate your vitamins and supplements by 2 hours of your PROGRAF®
- DO check with your transplant coordinator before taking any new medications to check for drug interactions
- Marijuana in all forms will affect your level of PROGRAF®