

DOCTORS FOSTER^{and}SMITH[®] PHARMACY

Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander WI 54501
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021 Mon-Fri from 9am-6pm CST and Sat from 9am-1pm CST. If you have an emergency situation, please contact your local veterinarian immediately.

Tacrolimus Ophthalmic Solution

(Prograf)

Common Drug Name

Tacrolimus ophthalmic solution

Common Brand Names

None.

A human oral form of the drug is Prograf.

Compounded products are available.

Storage

Store at room temperature (36-86°F) in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Uses

Tacrolimus modifies the immune response, and is used as an ophthalmic preparation in the eye for the treatment of keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS, 'dry eye') and chronic superficial keratitis in dogs. Usually KCS requires lifetime treatment.

Tacrolimus is used in other forms to prevent the rejection of transplanted organs.

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

If discharge is present, the area should be cleansed with a sterile eyewash solution prior to applying the tacrolimus solution.

Always wash your hands before and after applying this medication. It is also recommended that you **wear gloves during application.**

Shake the solution well before using. Place one hand under and around your pet's chin and lift upward, so the pet's eyes are looking towards the ceiling. Rest your other hand, holding the dropper bottle, on

top of the pet's head. Squeeze the drops into the corner of the eye, taking care not to touch the dropper to the eye surface. Continue to hold the head back for a moment while the drops disperse over the whole eye surface.

Never touch the tip of the tube or dropper to the pet's eye, lids, or eyelashes. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the dropper with your fingers, as this will also contaminate the medication.

If you are applying more than one medication to the eye, allow 5 minutes between applications so one medication is not washed out by the next. Be sure not to interchange the caps of the medications.

Several days to a few weeks of therapy may be needed before an improvement in the condition is seen.

If you miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the application you missed and go back to the regular schedule.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

Side effects are rare due to the very low concentration of tacrolimus, and since little of it is absorbed into the bloodstream.

May see mild eye irritation (redness, rubbing at the eye, excess blinking) when starting treatment. Consult your veterinarian if these effects are severe or do not subside within a week.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma.

If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to it.

The safety of this medication in puppies, or breeding, pregnant, or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young) has not been determined.

Do not use in animals with viral or fungal infections of the eye. Successfully treat those conditions before using ophthalmic tacrolimus.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with tacrolimus ophthalmic solution.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your pet is taking while your pet is receiving tacrolimus.

No drug interactions with the standard eye solution. However, wait at least 5 minutes between applying tacrolimus and any other eye medication.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

Unlikely to have an overdose with the eye solution. Oral overdose may cause liver and kidney damage. If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any unusual signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.