

ADVAGRAF[®]
(tacrolimus extended release)

GENERIC NAME	BRAND NAME	REASON FOR USE
Tacrolimus extended release Strengths: 0.5, 1 and 5 mg capsules	ADVAGRAF [®]	Tacrolimus is an <u>anti-rejection</u> drug. It works to suppress specific cells of your immune system in order to prevent rejection of your transplanted organ.

SIDE EFFECTS

1. INCREASED BLOOD PRESSURE

Your blood pressure will be monitored. You may require treatment with blood pressure medications.

2. EFFECTS ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

This can include trembling hands, headaches, mood changes and trouble sleeping. This is usually related to the level of Advagraf[®] in the blood and usually subsides with time as blood levels are decreased.

3. HARMFUL EFFECTS ON THE KIDNEY

The level of Advagraf[®] in your blood will be closely monitored and the dose will be adjusted if needed. Your kidney function will be monitored with a blood test called creatinine.

4. GASTROINTESTINAL UPSET

This may include stomach upset and diarrhea. The degree to which this occurs is variable and will depend on how your body reacts with the medication.

5. DIABETES (Increased Blood Sugar)

Your blood sugar (glucose) levels will be monitored. You may require treatment with medication if your blood glucose levels remain persistently high.

6. INCREASED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO INFECTION

Try to avoid close contact with people who have active infections. Report any symptoms of infection such as fever, sore throat, chills, or fast pulse to a doctor or your transplant team *immediately*.

7. INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING CANCER

The risk for developing certain types of cancers is higher. It is important to be aware of and report any changes in your body that could indicate a problem.

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DOSAGE ADJUSTMENTS

You will be advised to adjust your dose up or down based on the amount of Advagraf® in your blood. Blood tests are done just before your dose. On the days you are having bloodwork, you should **delay your dose of Advagraf® until after your blood is drawn**. Changes in dose are common so always check with your transplant team if you are unsure of your current dose.

STORAGE

Keep at room temperature – do not expose Advagraf® to extremes of temperature (direct sunlight or refrigeration).

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS

- Many medications can change the level of Advagraf® in your blood. This may cause serious problems.
- Do not take **any** medications, including non-prescription drugs or prescriptions (given to you by anyone other than your transplant doctors), without first contacting your transplant team.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice as these can increase Advagraf® levels.

REMEMBER

Wear/carry identification (*i.e.* Medic Alert) stating that you are immunocompromised.

TAKING YOUR MEDICATION

- Advagraf® (tacrolimus extended release) is taken once daily in the morning. In order to maintain a consistent amount of drug in your body, always take your dose at the same time every day.
- Always be consistent with respect to Advagraf® dosing and meal consumption (*i.e.* if you take the medication with food, always take it with food).
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice as these can increase Advagraf® blood levels.
- Do not get this medication confused with Prograf® (tacrolimus immediate release), which is a twice-daily formulation of tacrolimus.

