

SIROLIMUS (Rapamune®)

GENERIC NAMES	BRAND NAME	REASON FOR USE
Sirolimus Rapamycin Strengths: 1 mg tablets 1 mg/mL oral solution	RAPAMUNE®	Sirolimus is an <u>anti-rejection</u> drug. It works to suppress your immune system in order to prevent rejection of your transplanted organ.

SIDE EFFECTS

1. INCREASED CHOLESTEROL LEVELS

Your cholesterol and triglyceride levels may increase which can lead to atherosclerosis and heart disease. Dietary changes or medications may be required to bring your cholesterol levels down.

2. DECREASED BLOOD CELL COUNTS

Your blood cell counts will be monitored closely. Inform your transplant team if you develop any symptoms of infection, if you feel very tired, or experience any unusual bleeding or bruising.

3. SKIN RASH, ACNE OR MOUTH SORES

A rash or acne may develop on your face or body. You may also develop sores inside your mouth. Inform your transplant team if these effects occur and are bothersome.

4. GASTROINTESTINAL UPSET

Stomach upset, diarrhea, or constipation may occur. The degree to which this occurs is variable and will depend on how your body reacts with the medication.

5. SLOW WOUND HEALING

Healing of wounds such as the incision from your surgery may be slow. Keep your incision site and any other wounds clean. If any signs of infection occur such as increased redness, swelling, or pus in the wound, report this to a doctor right away.

6. SWELLING OF THE HANDS, FEET, ANKLES OR LEGS

You may develop fluid retention and swelling of the extremities. If this occurs and becomes bothersome you should report this to your transplant team.

7. 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*.

8. 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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TAKING YOUR MEDICATION

- Sirolimus is taken once a day. Try to take the dose at the same time every day in order to maintain a consistent amount of drug in your body. Tablets must not be cut, crushed or chewed.
- Always be consistent with respect to sirolimus dosing and meal consumption (*i.e.* if you take the medication with food, always take it with food).
- Your transplant team will adjust your dose up or down based on the amount of drug in your blood. Blood tests are done just before your dose is taken. **Always remember to delay your dose of sirolimus until after your blood is drawn.**

STORAGE

- Store sirolimus tablets at room temperature – do not expose to extremes of temperature (direct sunlight or refrigeration).
- Store sirolimus oral solution in the **refrigerator**. Protect from light, **do not freeze**.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS

- **Sirolimus must be taken at least 4 hours apart from cyclosporine.**
- Many medications can change the level of sirolimus 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 speaking to your transplant team.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice as these can increase the level of sirolimus in your blood and lead to side effects.

REMEMBER

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SIROLIMUS ORAL SOLUTION

- Supplied as a 1mg/mL solution in a glass bottle with amber oral syringes and caps
- Keeping bottle upright, place syringe in the adaptor cap on top of the bottle and draw up the correct dose as indicated on scale: *e.g.* 3mg = 3 mL
- Add dose to ¼ cup of water or orange juice, stir well, and drink. Add another ¼ cup water or orange juice to container, stir well, and drink this rinse solution.
- Throw away the syringe after each dose.
- You may pre-fill your syringe to be used at a later time. Draw up dose as described above. Place a cap on the syringe and keep in the carrying case supplied. Dose may be kept at room temperature, but must be taken within 24 hours of preparation.
- Bottles should be stored in the refrigerator and used within 30 days of opening.

