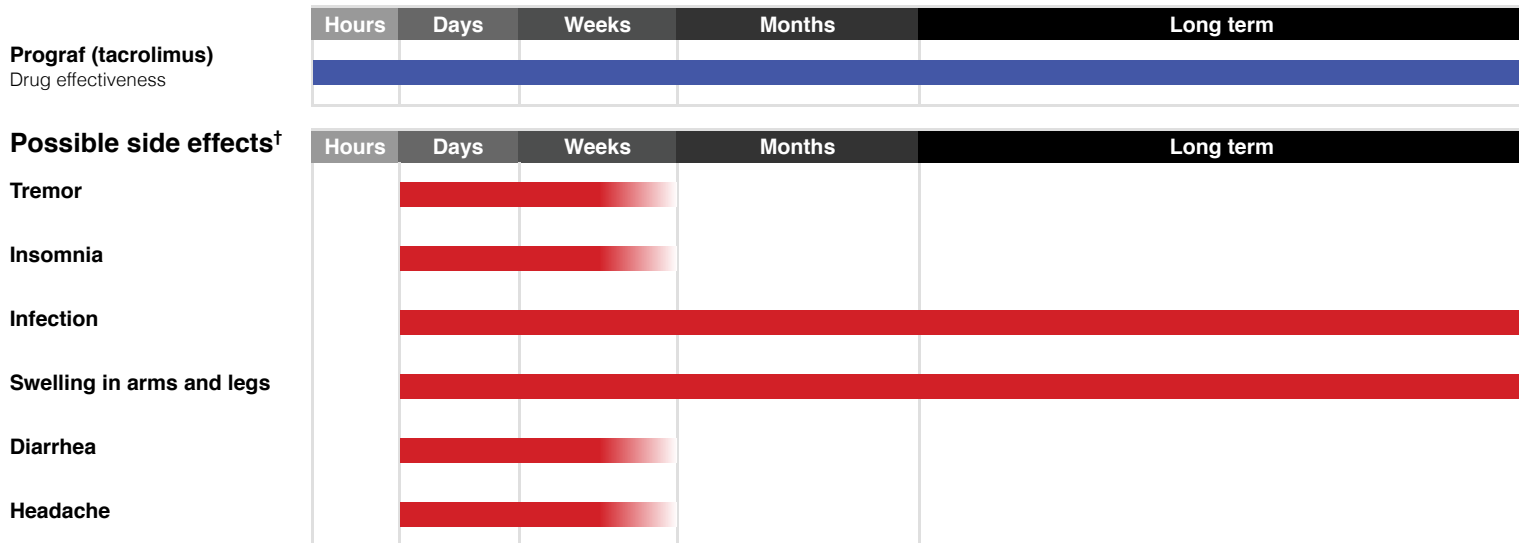


Prograf (tacrolimus) basics

Prevents rejection of a transplanted organ. Prograf (tacrolimus) is a good medicine that prevents rejection of an organ transplant, but you will need to be on it lifelong.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take your anti-rejection medicine consistently and at the same time each day.
- It is important to check with your doctor before starting any other medicines, vitamins, or supplements to make sure it doesn't interfere with how your anti-rejection medicines work.
- You will be more likely to catch an infection so practice good hand hygiene and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Also, wear gloves when you garden, keep any wounds clean and covered, and avoid sharing towels.
- Can make you burn easily so wear protective clothing and sunblock if you have to be out in the sun.
- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while on Prograf (tacrolimus).
- You will need to get blood tests done regularly to make sure the drug is working properly.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Serious infections

Prograf (tacrolimus) works by lowering your immune response, so it increases your risk of bacterial, fungal, or viral infections.

Cancer

Long-term use of Prograf (tacrolimus) has been associated with cancer of the skin and immune system. Limit your exposure to sunlight and make sure to check your skin regularly and let your doctor know if there's any changes.

Increased risk of death in female liver transplant patients taking extended-release Prograf (tacrolimus)

One study found that female liver transplant patients taking extended-release Prograf (tacrolimus) had a higher death rate than those taking the regular release form. Because of this, extended release Prograf (tacrolimus) is not approved to prevent liver transplant rejection. However, the regular form of Prograf (tacrolimus) can still be used.