Tacrolimus (Prograf) Side Effects

Tacrolimus is an immunosuppressant medication used to prevent organ rejection in transplant patients and is also indicated in the treatment of atopic dermatitis. Side effects of tacrolimus include nephro- and neurotoxicity, infection, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, hypertension, hyperkalemia, and hyperglycemia. Patients taking tacrolimus should not drink grapefruit juice, as it prevents the drug from being metabolized and can lead to toxicity.



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Nephrotoxicity
Kidney with Toxic-green-glow
Lab values indicative of kidney function, such as BUN and creatinine, should be monitored closely in patients taking tacrolimus, as this medication can cause severe kidney damage.

Neurotoxicity
Nerve with Toxic-green-glow
Patients taking tacrolimus may experience symptoms of neurotoxicity, including headache, tremors, and insomnia. Patients should not drink grapefruit juice while taking this medication, as it prevents the drug from being metabolized and can lead to toxicity.

GI Distress
GI with Flare-gun
Patients taking this medication may experience GI distress, including, but not limited to, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting.

Infection
Infectious-bacteria
Suppression of the immune system increases a patient’s risk of developing an infection and even increases the risk of malignancies. Early signs of infection, such as a fever, should be reported to a healthcare professional immediately to avoid hospitalization or death.

Hypertension
Hiker-BP
Increased blood pressure or hypertension may occur in patients taking Tacrolimus. This condition can be treated with antihypertensive medication.

Hyperkalemia
Hiker-banana
Tacrolimus can cause retention of potassium, which can lead to hyperkalemia. For this reason, patients taking this medication should avoid foods high in potassium.

Hyperglycemia
Hiker-glue-bottle
Patients taking tacrolimus may experience increased blood glucose levels, as this medication can interfere with insulin secretion in the body. Monitor the patient’s glucose frequently while on this medication.

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