

Switching from tacrolimus Prograf® to tacrolimus Adoport®

Information for Patients

Are there any differences between Prograf® and Adoport®?

- Prograf® and Adoport® are different brands of the drug tacrolimus, used to prevent rejection after an organ transplant.
- **As with Prograf® it is crucial that Adoport® is always prescribed and dispensed by brand name.**
- Adoport® has exactly the same benefits, side-effects, ingredients, and requirements for regular blood tests as Prograf®.
- Adoport® and Prograf® are both taken twice a day (unless you are on a very low dose where you may be advised to take it just once a day).
- 1mg of Prograf® = 1mg of Adoport®, so when you switch to Adoport® your dose will be the same as you were taking before.
- Adoport® is available in the same strength capsules as Prograf® (0.5mg, 1mg and 5mg) but the colours of the capsules are different. Adoport® is also available in 0.75mg and 2mg capsules. Note that the capsules shown below are not to scale.



Who will be switched?

- All liver transplant patients currently taking Prograf® will be reviewed with the intent to switch to Adoport®.
- We will only switch patients if they meet set criteria, agreed by the transplant team.
- If you require an adjustment to your Prograf® dose following your clinic appointment, we will delay switching you to Adoport® until we are happy with your tacrolimus level. Your transplant pharmacist or coordinator will phone you after your clinic visit if this is the case.

How will we manage the switch?

- Our plan is to switch you to Adoport® at your next clinic visit. You will only be switched after discussion with the transplant team where you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.
- The switch will be fully managed with careful supervision by the hospital transplant team.
- To reduce waste of expensive medicines, we may ask you to use up your remaining supply of Prograf® first, before switching to Adoport®. For many patients, the switch to Adoport® will therefore not be immediate.
- Depending how much Prograf® you have left at home, your transplant pharmacist will agree a plan with you and set a 'brand switch date' to STOP Prograf® and START Adoport®.
- You will be given an outpatient prescription for approximately one month's supply of Adoport® to be dispensed by the hospital pharmacy.
- You will then be asked to make an appointment with your GP for a blood test 7 – 14 days after you start taking Adoport® to check your tacrolimus blood level, kidney and liver function tests.

What extra monitoring will be required?

- Although the doses of Adoport® and Prograf® are the same, blood monitoring is still needed around the time of the switch to ensure your tacrolimus level, kidney and liver function tests remain stable.
- Although you usually have your tacrolimus level checked in the hospital clinic, your GP will be asked to do this one extra set of tests to prevent you needing to come back to hospital. This should be arranged for 7-14 days after the date you start taking Adoport®.
- **It is very important that you have a morning appointment with your GP for your blood tests, and that you don't take your Adoport® until AFTER your appointment on that day.**
- In the unlikely event of your tacrolimus level increasing or decreasing such that a dose change is needed, your transplant pharmacist or liver transplant coordinator will phone you to tell you what dose of Adoport® to take.

After the switch

- **It is very important that once switched you do not go back to taking Prograf®**, as monitoring is needed to ensure a safe switch between brands.
- We have a letter for you to give to your community pharmacy explaining why it is so important that you only have the Adoport® brand from now on, and that they should now keep Adoport® in stock.
- A letter will also be sent to your GP informing them of the switch and asking them to check your tacrolimus blood level, kidney and liver function tests 7 – 14 days after you start taking Adoport®.
- We will be in close communication with your GP and community pharmacy to ensure the switch goes smoothly and that there are no delays in you receiving your next supply.

As detailed above, management of this switch will be tightly controlled by your transplant team, and we are confident that your switch from Prograf® to Adoport® will be a straightforward process for you. We do understand however that you may have some queries, and we welcome any questions that you may have in person at your upcoming clinic appointment, or of course at any point during the switching phase using the contact details below.

Contacts/Further Information:

Specialist Transplant Pharmacist:

Gillian Fulton

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Liver Transplant Coordinators:

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