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## **Tacrolimus (FK 506)**

### **(Protopic\*, Tacrolimus\*) POM**

- Formulations

Topical: 0.03%, 0.1% skin ointments (30 g, 60 g tubes); 0.02% eye drop solution (15 ml). Oral: various preparations – avoid switching between brands.

- Action

T-lymphocyte inhibition.

- Use
  - Topical aqueous and oil-based formulations have been used in eyes to treat canine keratoconjunctivitis sicca that is unresponsive to topical ciclosporin.

Prior to availability of an ophthalmic preparation in the UK, there were anecdotal reports that the skin ointment (0.1%) formulation has been used successfully and without adverse effects. Has also been used for localized autoimmune dermatoses and localized lesions of atopic dermatitis. Long-term effects, potential adverse effects and toxicities are as yet unknown and tacrolimus must be reserved for special cases only. Systemic (oral) administration has been used for a limited number of cases of anal furunculosis where ciclosporin has failed.

- DOSES

See Appendix for immunosuppression protocols.

- Dogs Apply 1 drop to the affected eye q12h.
- Cats No information available.

- Adverse reactions

Discomfort on application (blepharospasm). Topical treatment may be associated with an increased risk of malignancy (e.g corneal squamous cell carcinoma). May affect circulating levels of insulin and cause hyperglycaemia; in the presence of diabetes mellitus, the effect of treatment on glycaemic control must be monitored.



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- Contraindications

No information available.

- Drug interactions

Suspected to be similar to ciclosporin.

- Safety and handling

Use gloves.

Extract from BSAVA Formulary March 2025