

### **Bijsluiter: informatie voor de patiënt**

**Tacrolimus Sandoz® 0,5 mg, capsules, hard**  
**Tacrolimus Sandoz® 0,75 mg, capsules, hard**  
**Tacrolimus Sandoz® 1 mg, capsules, hard**  
**Tacrolimus Sandoz® 2 mg, capsules, hard**  
**Tacrolimus Sandoz® 5 mg, capsules, hard**

tacrolimus

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What [Nationally completed name] is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take [Nationally completed name]
3. How to take [Nationally completed name]
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store [Nationally completed name]
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What [Nationally completed name] is and what it is used for**

[Nationally completed name] belongs to a group of medicines called **immunosuppressants**. Following your organ transplant (e.g. liver, kidney, heart), your body's immune system will try to reject the new organ.

[Nationally completed name] is used to control your body's immune response enabling your body to accept the transplanted organ. [Nationally completed name] is often used in combination with other medicines that also suppress the immune system.

You may also be given [Nationally completed name] for an ongoing rejection of your transplanted liver, kidney, heart or other organ or if any previous treatment you were taking was unable to control this immune response after your transplantation.

#### **2. What you need to know before you take [Nationally completed name]**

**Do not take [Nationally completed name]:**

- If you are allergic to tacrolimus or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to any antibiotic belonging to the subgroup of macrolide antibiotics (e.g. erythromycin, clarithromycin, josamycin).

**Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking [Nationally completed name].

- You will need to take [Nationally completed name] every day as long as you need immunosuppression to prevent rejection of your transplanted organ. You should keep in regular contact with your doctor.
- Whilst you are taking [Nationally completed name] your doctor may want to carry out a number of tests (including blood, urine, heart function, visual and neurological tests) from time to time. This is quite normal and will help your doctor to decide on the most appropriate dose of [Nationally completed name] for you.
- Please avoid taking any herbal remedies, e.g. St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) or any other herbal products as this may affect the effectiveness and the dose of [Nationally completed name] that you need to receive. If in doubt please consult your doctor prior to taking any herbal products or remedies.
- If you have liver problems or have had a disease which may have affected your liver, please tell your doctor as this may affect the dose of [Nationally completed name] that you receive.
- If you feel strong abdominal pain accompanied or not with other symptoms, such as chills, fever, nausea or vomiting.
- If you have diarrhoea for more than one day, please tell your doctor, because it might be necessary to adapt the dose of [Nationally completed name] that you receive.
- If you have an alteration of the electrical activity of your heart called "QT prolongation".
- Limit your exposure to sunlight and UV light whilst taking [Nationally completed name] by wearing appropriate protective clothing and using a sunscreen with a high sun protection factor. This is because of the potential risk of malignant skin changes with immunosuppressive therapy.
- If you need to have any vaccinations, please inform your doctor beforehand. Your doctor will advise you on the best course of action.
- Patients treated with [Nationally completed name] have been reported to have an increased risk of developing lymphoproliferative disorders (see section 4). Ask your doctor for specific advice on these disorders.

**Other medicines and [Nationally completed name]**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription and herbal remedies.

[Nationally completed name] must not be taken with ciclosporin.

[Nationally completed name] blood levels can be affected by other medicines you take, and blood levels of other medicines can be affected by taking [Nationally completed name] which may require interruption, an increase or a decrease in [Nationally completed name] dose. **In particular, you should tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken medicines with active substances like:**

- antifungal medicines and antibiotics (particularly so-called macrolide antibiotics) used to treat infections e.g. ketoconazole, fluconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, clotrimazole and isavuconazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin, josamycin and rifampicin
- letermovir, used to prevent illness caused by CMV (human cytomegalovirus)
- HIV protease inhibitors (e.g. ritonavir, nelfinavir, saquinavir), the booster medicine cobicistat and combination tablets, used to treat HIV infection)
- HCV protease inhibitors (e.g. telaprevir, boceprevir and the combination ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir with or without dasabuvir), used to treat hepatitis C infection
- Nilotinib and imatinib (used to treat certain cancers)
- Mycophenolic acid, used to suppress the immune system to prevent transplant rejection
- medicines for stomach ulcer and acid reflux (e.g. omeprazole, lansoprazole or cimetidine)
- antiemetics, used to treat nausea and vomiting (e.g. metoclopramide)
- magnesium-aluminium-hydroxide (antacid), used to treat heartburn
- hormone treatments with ethinylestradiol (e.g. the oral contraceptive pill) or danazol
- medicines for high blood pressure or heart problems such as nifedipine, nicardipine, diltiazem and verapamil
- anti-arrhythmic medicines (amiodarone) used to control arrhythmia (uneven beating of the heart)
- medicines known as “statins” used to treat elevated cholesterol and triglycerides
- the anti-epileptic medicines phenytoin or phenobarbital
- the corticosteroids prednisolone and methylprednisolone
- the anti-depressant nefazodone
- herbal preparations containing St. John’s Wort (*hypericum perforatum*) or extracts of *Shisandra sphenanthera*.
- metamizole, a medicine used to treat pain and fever
- Cannabidiol (usesamongst others include treatment of seizures)

Tell your doctor immediately if during treatment you suffer from:

- problems with your vision such as blurred vision, changes in colour vision, difficulty in seeing detail or if your field of vision becomes restricted.

Tell your doctor if you are taking or need to take ibuprofen, amphotericin B or antivirals (e.g. aciclovir). These may worsen kidney or nervous system problems when taken together with [Nationally completed name].

Your doctor also needs to know if you are taking potassium supplements or potassium-sparing

diuretics (e.g. amiloride, triamterene, or spironolactone), certain pain killers (so –called NSAIDs, e.g. ibuprofen) anticoagulants or oral medication for diabetic treatment, while you take [Nationally completed name].

If you need to have any vaccinations, please inform your doctor beforehand.

#### **[Nationally completed name] with food and drink**

You should generally take [Nationally completed name] on an empty stomach or at least 1 hour before or 2 to 3 hours after a meal. Grapefruit and grapefruit juice should be avoided while taking [Nationally completed name].

#### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding:**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

[Nationally completed name] is excreted into breast milk. Therefore you should not breast-feed whilst receiving [Nationally completed name].

#### **Driving and using machines:**

Do not drive or use any tools or machines if you feel dizzy or sleepy, or have problems seeing clearly after taking [Nationally completed name]. These effects are more frequently observed if [Nationally completed name] is taken in conjunction with alcohol use.

#### **[Nationally completed name] contains lactose and sodium.**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per hard capsule, that is to say essentially ‘sodium-free’.

### **3. How to take [Nationally completed name]**

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Make sure that you receive the same tacrolimus medicine every time you collect your prescription, unless your transplant specialist has agreed to change to a different tacrolimus medicine.

This medicine should be taken twice a day. If the appearance of this medicine is not the same as usual, or if dosage instructions have changed, speak to your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible to make sure that you have the right medicine.

The starting dose to prevent the rejection of your transplanted organ will be determined by your doctor calculated according to your body weight. Initial doses just after transplantation will generally be in the range of

0.075–0.30 mg per kg body weight per day

depending on the transplanted organ.

Your dose depends on your general condition and on which other immunosuppressive medication you are taking. Regular blood tests by your doctor will be required to define the correct dose and to adjust the dose from time to time. Your doctor will usually reduce your [Nationally completed name] dose once your condition has stabilised. Your doctor will tell you exactly how many capsules to take and how often.

- [Nationally completed name] is taken orally twice daily, usually in the morning and evening. You should generally take [Nationally completed name] on an empty stomach or at least 1 hour before or 2 to 3 hours after the meal.
- The capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water.
- Take the hard capsules immediately following removal from the blister.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice while taking [Nationally completed name]
- Do not swallow the desiccant contained in the foil wrapper.

**If you take more [Nationally completed name] than you should**

If you have accidentally taken too much [Nationally completed name], see your doctor or contact your nearest hospital emergency department immediately.

**If you forget to take [Nationally completed name]**

Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses. If you have forgotten to take your [Nationally completed name] capsules, wait until it is time for the next dose, and then continue as before.

**If you stop taking [Nationally completed name]**

Stopping your treatment with [Nationally completed name] may increase the risk of rejection of your transplanted organ. Do not stop your treatment unless your doctor tells you to do so.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

[Nationally completed name] reduces your body's own defence mechanism to stop you rejecting your transplanted organ. Consequently, your body will not be as good as usual at fighting infections. So if you are taking [Nationally completed name] you may therefore catch more infections than usual such as infections of the skin, mouth, stomach and intestines, lungs and urinary tract.

Severe side effects may occur, including the ones listed below. Tell your doctor immediately if you have or suspect you may have any of the following serious side effects: .

- Opportunistic infections (bacterial, fungal, viral and protozoal): prolonged diarrhea, fever and sore throat. Benign and malignant tumours have been reported following treatment as a result of immunosuppression
- Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (or TTP) a condition characterised by fever and bruising under the skin that may appear as red pinpoint dots, with or without unexplained extreme tiredness, confusion, yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), with symptoms of acute renal failure (low or no urine output).
- Cases of pure red cell aplasia (a very severe reduction in red blood cell counts) and haemolytic anaemia (decreased number of red blood cells due to abnormal breakdown accompanied with tiredness) and febrile neutropenia (a decrease in the type of white blood cells which fight infection, accompanied by fever) have been reported. It is not known exactly how often these side effects occur. You may have no symptoms or depending on the severity of the condition, you may feel: fatigue, apathy, abnormal paleness of the skin (pallor), shortness of breath, dizziness, headache, chest pain and coldness in hands and feet.
- Cases of agranulocytosis (a severely lowered number of white blood cells accompanied with ulcers in the mouth, fever and infection(s)). You may have no symptoms or you may feel sudden fever, rigors and sore throat.
- Allergic and anaphylactic reactions with the following symptoms: a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of hands, feet, ankle, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing) and you may feel you are going to faint.
- Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES): headache, altered mental status, seizures, and visual disturbances.
- Torsades de Pointes: change in the heart frequency that can be accompanied or not of symptoms, such as chest pain (angina), faint, vertigo or nausea, palpitations (feeling the heartbeat) and difficulty breathing.
- Gastrointestinal perforation: strong abdominal pain accompanied or not with other symptoms, such as chills, fever, nausea or vomiting.
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome: unexplained widespread skin pain, facial swelling, serious illness with blistering of skin, mouth, eyes and genitals, hives, tongue swelling, red or purple skin rash that spreads, skin shedding.
- Toxic epidermal necrolysis: erosion and blistering of skin or mucous membranes, red swollen skin that can detach in large parts of the body.

- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a condition with the following symptoms: low or no urine output (acute renal failure), extreme tiredness, yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice) and abnormal bruising or bleeding and signs of infection.
- Insufficient function of your transplanted organ

The side effects listed below may also occur after receiving [Nationally completed name]:

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- increased blood sugar, diabetes mellitus, increased potassium in the blood
- difficulty in sleeping
- trembling, headache
- increased blood pressure
- diarrhoea, nausea
- kidney problems

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- reduced magnesium, phosphate, potassium, calcium or sodium in the blood, fluid overload, increased uric acid or lipids in the blood, decreased appetite, increased acidity of the blood, other changes in the blood salts
- anxiety symptoms, confusion and disorientation, depression, mood changes, nightmare, hallucination, mental disorders
- fits, disturbances in consciousness, tingling and numbness (sometimes painful) in the hands and feet, dizziness, impaired writing ability, nervous system disorders
- blurred vision, increased sensitivity to light, eye disorders
- ringing sound in your ears
- reduced blood flow in the heart vessels, faster heartbeat
- bleeding, partial or complete blocking of blood vessels, reduced blood pressure
- shortness in breath, changes in the lung tissue, collection of liquid around the lung, inflammation of the pharynx, cough, flu-like symptoms
- inflammations or ulcers causing abdominal pain or diarrhoea, bleeds in the stomach, inflammations or ulcers in the mouth, collection of fluid in the belly, vomiting, abdominal pains, indigestion, constipation, flatulence, bloating, loose stools, stomach problems
- changes in liver enzymes and function, yellowing of the skin due to liver problems, liver tissue damage and inflammation of the liver
- itching, rash, hair loss, acne, increased sweating
- pain in joints, limbs, back and feet, muscle spasms
- insufficient function of the kidneys, reduced production of urine, impaired or painful urination
- general weakness, fever, collection of fluid in your body, pain and discomfort, increase of the enzyme alkaline phosphatase in your blood, weight gain, feeling of temperature disturbed

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- changes in blood clotting, reduction in all blood cell counts

- dehydration, reduced protein or sugar in the blood, increased phosphate in the blood
- coma, bleeding in the brain, stroke, paralysis, brain disorder, speech and language abnormalities, memory problems
- Opacity of the lens
- impaired hearing
- irregular heartbeat, stop of heartbeat, reduced performance of your heart, disorder of the heart muscle, enlargement of the heart muscle, stronger heartbeat, abnormal ECG, heart rate and pulse abnormal
- blood clot in a vein of a limb, shock
- difficulties in breathing, respiratory tract disorders, asthma
- obstruction of the gut, increased blood level of the enzyme amylase, reflux of stomach content in your throat, delayed emptying of the stomach
- dermatitis, burning sensation in the sunlight
- joint disorders
- inability to urinate, painful menstruation and abnormal menstrual bleeding
- failure of some organs, influenza-like illness, increased sensitivity to heat and cold, feeling of pressure on your chest, jittery or abnormal feeling, increase of the enzyme lactate dehydrogenase in your blood, weight loss

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- small bleeds in your skin due to blood clots
- increased muscle stiffness
- blindness
- deafness
- collection of fluid around the heart
- acute breathlessness
- cyst formation in your pancreas
- problems with blood flow in the liver
- increased hairiness
- thirst, fall, feeling of tightness in your chest, decreased mobility, ulcer

Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):

- muscular weakness
- echocardiogram abnormal
- liver failure, narrowing of the bile vessel
- painful urination with blood in the urine
- increase of fat tissue

Not known: frequency (cannot be estimated from the available data)

- abnormality of the optic nerve (optic neuropathy)

Reporting of side effects



If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V\*. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store [Nationally completed name]

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Use all the capsules within 12 months after opening the aluminium wrapping surrounding the blister. Do not store above 25°C after opening the aluminium wrapping.

Take the capsule immediately after removing from the blister.

Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

### What [Nationally completed name] contains

- The active substance is tacrolimus.  
Each capsule contains 0.5 mg 0.75 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg, 5 mg of tacrolimus (as monohydrate).
- The other ingredients are:
  - *Capsule contents:* lactose monohydrate, hypromellose (E 464), croscarmellose sodium (E 468) and magnesium stearate (E 572).
  - *Hard gelatin capsule:*
    - 0.5 mg:**  
gelatin, titanium dioxide (E 171), sodium laurilsulfate, sorbitan laureate and yellow iron oxide (E 172).
    - 0.75 mg:**  
gelatin, titanium dioxide (E 171), Yellow iron oxide (E 172), FD&C Blue 1 (E 133), Shellac (E 904), Propylene glycol (E1520), Potassium hydroxide (E 525) and Black iron oxide (E 172).
    - 1 mg:**  
gelatin, titanium dioxide (E 171), sodium laurilsulfate, sorbitan laureate, yellow iron oxide (E 172), red iron oxide (E 172) and black iron oxide (E 172).
    - 2 mg:**

gelatin, titanium dioxide (E 171), Yellow iron oxide (E 172), Red iron oxide (E 172), FD&C Blue 1 (E 133), Shellac (E 904), Propylene glycol (E 1520), Potassium hydroxide (E 525) and Black iron oxide (E 172).

**5 mg:**

gelatin, titanium dioxide (E 171), sodium laurilsulfate, sorbitan laureate and red iron oxide (E 172).

### What **[Nationally completed name]** looks like and contents of the pack

**[Nationally completed name]**, 0.5 mg are hard capsules with white coloured opaque body and ivory coloured cap containing white to off- white powder (length: 14.5 mm).

**[Nationally completed name]**, 0.75 mg are light green opaque hard capsules, imprinted in black with 0.75 mg on the cap, containing white to off-white powder (length: 14.5 mm).

**[Nationally completed name]**, 1 mg are hard capsules with white coloured opaque body and light brown coloured cap containing white to off- white powder (length: 14.5 mm).

**[Nationally completed name]**, 2 mg are dark green opaque hard capsules, imprinted in black with 2 mg on the cap, containing white to off-white powder (length: 14.5 mm).

**[Nationally completed name]**, 5 mg are hard capsules with white coloured opaque body and orange coloured cap containing white to off- white powder (length: 15.8 mm).

**[Nationally completed name]** are packed in PVC/ PE/ PVdC// Aluminium blisters in Aluminium bag, including a dessicant protecting the capsules from moisture. The desiccant should not be swallowed.

**[NL/H/1340/001,002,003,004,005]**

Packs of 7, 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 50, 60, 90 and 100 hard capsules.

**[NL/H/1341/001,002,003]**

Packs of 7, 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 50, 60 and 100 hard capsules.

**[NL/H/1341/004,005]**

Packs of 20, 50 and 100 hard capsules.

**[NL/H/1342/001,003]**

Packs of 50 and 100 hard capsules.

**[NL/H/1342/002]**

Packs of 50, 100 and 200 hard capsules.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Houder van de vergunning voor het in de handel brengen en fabrikant**

Vergunninghouder:

Sandoz B.V, Veluwezoom 22, 1327 AH Almere, Nederland

Fabrikanten:

Lek Pharmaceuticals d.d.

Verovškova 57

1526 Ljubljana

Slovenië

Salutas Pharma GmbH

Otto-von-Guericke-Allee 1

Sachsen-Anhalt, 39179 Barleben

Duitsland

Lek Pharmaceuticals d.d.

Trimlini 2D

9220 Lendava

Slovenië

S.C. Sandoz, S.R.L.

Str. Livezeni nr. 7A

Târgu Mureş 540472

Roemenië

Lek S.A.

ul. Domaniewska 50 C

02-672 Warszawa

Polen

**In het register ingeschreven onder:**

RVG 102096: Tacrolimus Sandoz 0,5 mg, capsules, hard

RVG 113454: Tacrolimus Sandoz 0,75 mg, capsules, hard

RVG 102097: Tacrolimus Sandoz 1 mg, capsules, hard

RVG 113453: Tacrolimus Sandoz 2 mg, capsules, hard

RVG 102098: Tacrolimus Sandoz 5 mg, capsules, hard

**Dit geneesmiddel is geregistreerd in de lidstaten van de Europese Economische Ruimte onder de volgende namen:**

Duitsland Tacrolimus HEXAL 0,5 mg, 0,75 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg, 5 mg Hartkapseln

Nederland Tacrolimus Sandoz 0,5 mg, 0,75 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg, 5 mg capsules, hard

**Deze bijsluiter is voor de laatste keer goedgekeurd in juli 2022**