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 availibility 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.

More +

- **DOSES**

See Appendix for immunosuppression protocols.

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