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INFORMATION ON TACROLIMUS (PROTOPIC)

What is Tacrolimus (Protopic)?

- Tacrolimus is a non steroid ointment. It is greasy with a consistency like petroleum jelly
- It has a major advantage of not contributing to skin thinning (also called atrophy) and is therefore widely used in a number of scarring hair loss conditions especially frontal fibrosing alopecia, lichen planopilaris, central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia and folliculitis decalvans

How is Tacrolimus (Protopic) prescribed?

- Dr. Donovan will advise how to use; Often it is used 2-6 times per week.

Can I use Tacrolimus (Protopic) with other treatments?

- Tacrolimus is often used with topical steroids and steroid injections
- It is frequently used with oral anti-inflammatory agents as well

Who should not use Tacrolimus (Protopic)?

- You need to let Dr. Donovan know if you take any medications. He can then tell you if Tacrolimus is unsafe.
- You shouldn't use Tacrolimus if you are or were allergic to it in the past
- You should not use Tacrolimus if you have skin cancer or any type of skin infection; Netherton's syndrome (a genetic skin disorder), a weak immune system (caused by disease or by using certain medicines); or
- swelling, redness, or irritation over large skin areas.
- Pregnant women should not use until they have spoken with Dr. Donovan
- Individuals who plan to get a lot of ultraviolet radiation should also not use. This includes those who tan or use tanning beds.

What side effects are possible with Tacrolimus (Protopic)?

- Most individuals who use Protopic do not experience serious side effects.

Stop using Protopic and contact Dr. Donovan's office if you have a serious side effect such as:

- severe burning of treated skin;
- new symptoms of viral skin infection (warts, unusual rash or skin lesions, blistering or oozing, burning pain or tingling);
- worsened skin symptoms or hair loss
- swollen glands (lymphadenopathy), sore throat; or
- fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms.

Less serious side effects may include:

- mild burning or warm feeling of treated skin;
- headache;
- cold symptoms such as stuffy nose, sneezing;
- swollen hair follicles;
- acne or warts;
- burning, stinging, tingling, or soreness of treated skin (especially during the first few days of treatment);
- upset stomach;
- muscle pain; or
- feeling more sensitive to hot or cold temperatures.
- Abdominal or stomach pain
- body aches or pain
- burning, itching, redness, skin rash, swelling, or soreness at the application site
- change in hearing
- chills
- cold or flu-like symptoms
- congestion (ear or nasal)
- cough producing mucus
- diarrhea
- difficulty with breathing or shortness of breath
- dryness or soreness of the throat
- earache or pain in the ear
- ear drainage, fever, general feeling of discomfort or illness
- headache hoarseness, itching

Less serious Protopic side effects (continued):

- joint pain
- loss of appetite
- loss of voice
- muscle aches and pains
- nausea
- pain
- redness
- runny nose
- shivering
- sneezing
- sweating
- swelling
- tenderness
- tender, swollen glands in the neck
- tightness in the chest
- trouble with swallowing
- trouble with sleeping
- unusual tiredness or weakness
- voice changes, vomiting, warmth on the skin
- wheezing

What side effects should prompt me to STOP Tacrolimus (Protopic) and get medical advice?

- Any symptom that makes you not feel well
- Severe allergic reactions (rash; hives; itching; difficulty breathing; tightness in the chest; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue)
- Black urine or white stools, decreased urination
- fever, chills, or persistent sore throat; general feeling of discomfort; joint pain or swelling; loss of appetite; mental or mood changes; nausea or vomiting; pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site; red, swollen, or blistered skin; severe stomach pain; unusual bruising or bleeding; vision changes; wheezing; yellowing of eyes or skin.

