

Renal Services

Sirolimus: information for kidney transplant patients

What is Sirolimus used for?

Sirolimus (known as Rapamune® or rapamycin) is an immunosuppressant medicine. It helps prevent rejection of your transplanted kidney.

How does Sirolimus work?

It works by stopping your body's production of cells that are part of your immune system. This controls your immune system to stop rejection of your new kidney.

How to take Sirolimus

You will take your sirolimus dose once a day. It can be taken with or without food as long as you always take it the same way.

It is also important to avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking sirolimus. If you are also taking Tacrolimus or Ciclosporin, you will need to take Sirolimus at a different time of day.

Sirolimus is available in 0.5mg, 1mg and 2mg tablets, and 1mg/1ml solution.

The 500 microgram tablet is not bioequivalent to the 1mg and 2mg tablets. Multiples of 500 microgram tablets should not be used as a substitute for other tablet strengths.



Patient Information

You will need to have regular blood tests to make sure that the levels of Sirolimus in your blood are in the correct range. Your doctor will decide on the right dose for you. This will depend on these results and your other medicines. You may find other people take bigger or smaller doses than you.

Side effects

- You may have an upset stomach and get diarrhoea or stomach pain.
- You may develop mouth ulcers or a sore mouth.
- Your cholesterol level may increase. This will be measured at your clinic visits and treated if needed.
- You may develop protein in the urine.

Sirolimus can lower some of your blood test results. This can include tests that measure your white blood cells. Your doctor will monitor this in clinic.

Do not take your dose of sirolimus on the days you come to clinic until after your blood has been taken.

Important: long-term effects

You are taking immunosuppressant medicines. This means that you may experience long-term health effects. Long-term health effects include increased risks of infection and cancer.

It is important that you follow the transport team's health advice. Please read the booklet that they give you. It provides important information that you need.

You should not be vaccinated with 'live' vaccines while you are taking Sirolimus. The transplant team or pharmacist can advise you on vaccines that are safe for you.

Patient Information

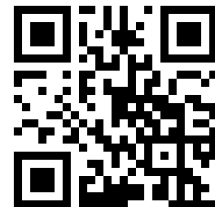
Some common medicines can interfere with your sirolimus levels. These include antibiotics. This means it is important to let your GP, pharmacist, or any other doctor that provides care, know that you are taking sirolimus. Always check with a member of the transplant team, or renal pharmacist, if you are unsure if a medicine is safe for you.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 7777 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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