

**DERBYSHIRE JOINT AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE
(JAPC)**

Protocol for use of topical tacrolimus

Green after consultant / specialist initiation

Patient with moderate or severe atopic eczema (adults and children 2 years and above), not responsive to topical steroids or needing large quantities of topical steroid to control, hence requiring a steroid sparing agent



Seen in Dermatology



Treatment plan in clinic letter to GP to include topical tacrolimus, stating

- i) Under what circumstance to use e.g. for flares
- ii) Where to use
- iii) How long to use for e.g. one month at a time
- iv) What quantities to prescribe e.g. 30 or 60G
- v) What % to prescribe i.e. 0.03% or 0.1%

(0.1% licensed only for use in patients aged 16 years and older)



GPs to continue prescriptions as per treatment plan, it is advisable that this left on acute prescriptions and flares monitored for excessive use.



If patient needing *daily topical tacrolimus without a break for more than six months, or if flare not improving to refer back to dermatology as a new referral

* *Intermittent* use of topical tacrolimus for six months or more as per treatment plan in clinic letter is acceptable

Risk of malignancies

Tacrolimus may be associated with a possible risk of malignancies. Cases of malignancies have been reported in association with oral and topically applied tacrolimus. Findings from epidemiological studies have suggested a possible increased risk of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma in patients treated with topical tacrolimus ointment.

Tacrolimus should not be prescribed to patients younger than 2 years, and that the use of tacrolimus in children aged 2-16 years is restricted to the lower strength 0.03% ointment only.

In addition, tacrolimus should not be applied to lesions that are considered to be potentially malignant or pre-malignant, or used in patients with congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies, or in patients on therapy that causes immunosuppression.

Further information: [MHRA Drug Safety Update \(Volume 5, Issue 11 - June 2012\)](#)

This protocol is in line with NICE [TA82](#) tacrolimus and pimecrolimus for atopic eczema. Tacrolimus should not be used to treat mild atopic eczema and should only be used after consultant initiation and only after the pros and cons of treatment options have been discussed.