FK506, also referred to as Tacrolimus or Fujimycin, is a 23-membered macroclide lactone with similar yet more potent immunosuppressant activity than cyclosporine. FK506 is used for primary or rescue immunosuppression in patients after a solid organ transplantation. Clinically relevant FK506 side effects include nephrotoxicity, neurotoxicity, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension. Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of FK506 levels is a prerequisite for therapy. Whole blood is the matrix of choice for FK506 TDM. The whole blood target level range aimed for in clinical practice falls between 3.0 and 20.0 ng/ml and depends on the patient’s liver function, the type of organ transplanted and the amount of time that has passed after transplantation. FK506 and steroid administration in larger doses reduce serum transaminase levels of transplant recipients.

**REFERENCES**


