Ciclosporin
A drug that suppresses the immune system

Common side effects
- Abnormal kidney function. Kidney damage on long-term use
- Fatigue, Stomach and intestinal disturbances
- Overgrowth of the gums, tremor and headache
- Abnormal liver function, loss of appetite and tiredness
- Susceptibility to infections

Patients must have regular blood tests
Note that benefits of treatment are usually greater than the risks; consult your doctor

Common Interactions with other medicines
- Statins (cholesterol-lowering drugs) = increased risk of muscle breakdown and muscle pain.
- Grapefruit juice = raises the levels of ciclosporin in the blood.
- Digoxin = Levels of digoxin increase, so increased risk of digoxin toxicity.
- Pain killers like Ibuprofen and diclofenac (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) = increased risk of toxicity to kidneys.
- Antibacterials like erythromycin and Antifungals like itraconazole = ciclosporin levels go up.
- Some types of diuretics ('water tablets'): potassium-sparing diuretics and aldosterone antagonists = increases potassium levels in body.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are taking these or any other medicines

Poster prepared by Mohamed Abou Dounya, Pharmacist, Pharmacy Dept. Moorfields Eye Hospital August 2010