

5FU (fluorouracil) for the treatment of Actinic Keratoses

Reactions that may occur in the applied area are redness, scaling, itching, discoloration, burning, and tenderness. Swelling, scarring, and oozing have also been reported. The following instructions should assist you if a reaction does occur:

1. For mild inflammation or swelling, use cool compresses and/or Tylenol or Ibuprofen...UNLESS CONTRAINDICATED WITH EXISTING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
2. Use Vaseline or Aquaphor on skin that feels tight or dry
3. Use Polysporin or Bacitracin on any open sores
4. **If the reaction is intolerable, discontinue use and call the office**

While the above instructions and reactions provide important information about 5FU, they DO NOT contain all of the possible uses, actions, precautions, side effects, warnings, contraindications, and interactions of this medication. 5FU has few side effects other than those that occur in the area of the skin where it is applied. If you experience any adverse effects OTHER THAN those listed above, please contact our office.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Apply 5FU twice a day, morning and evening, to affected areas with a non-metal applicator or with your fingertips. If you use your fingertips, you may wish to wear gloves. If you do not wear a glove, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly before and after each application.
2. Apply a thin layer, just enough to cover the skin. The liquid should be applied with care to avoid coming near the eyes. Apply to nose, and/or lips, ONLY when instructed by the Provider.
3. Do not be surprised if your skin in the area of the lesions looks worse before it starts looking better. For example, you will probably notice that the lesions and possibly some of the surrounding skin will become inflamed, possibly blister, and peel off. This is a normal stage in the healing process.
4. While you are using the 5FU, do not use cosmetics, medication or other products on the treated areas without first checking with the Provider. It is also a good idea to avoid exposure to sunlight or other ultraviolet light. You may use sunscreen and/or protection, ie. hat, long sleeves, long pants, etc.
5. 5FU has been prescribed for your specific skin condition. Please do not share your prescription with anyone else who may appear to have a similar problem. As with all medications, keep out of reach of children.
6. It is especially important that you follow instructions exactly and use 5FU for the length of time prescribed. If you have any questions, or if there is anything about the treatment that is concerning to you, please do not hesitate to call our office or the pharmacist.