Efudix (5-Fluorouracil) Cream

Efudix cream contains an anti-cancer drug called 5-Fluourouracil. You should use this leaflet in conjunction with the package insert.

Important safety information: Do not use Efudix if you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breastfeeding. Tell your healthcare professional before starting treatment if you take medicines containing brivudine or sorivudine, or if you know that you have reduced activity of the enzyme dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD). Avoid contact with the eyes, eyelids, nostrils, lips and other sensitive areas. Keep the cream out of the sight and reach of children and do not allow other people or pets to touch the treated skin.

Instructions

- Apply the cream thinly over the affected area and 1cm around it as directed in the table below:

How often should I apply the cream?	**How long should I use it for?**	**Where should I apply it?**	**Should I use anything else during or after the course of treatment?**
❑ Once a day or ❑ Twice a day or	❑ Two weeks or ❑ Four weeks or		❑ A light moisturiser such as Simple or ❑ Eumovate cream or .....

- Do not cover the area being treated unless you have been specifically advised to
- Wash your hands thoroughly after applying the cream, unless your hands are the area being treated. Protect the treated area from sunlight and avoid sunbeds during treatment. Your healthcare professional can advise you about suitable clothing and sunscreen.
- If multiple areas need to be treated, it is often more comfortable to treat one area at a time. The largest area that should be treated in one go is the equivalent to two palms. When treating large areas you may find that new lesions become inflamed – these are areas of sun-damage that are detected by the cream.
- You can wash the area gently with lukewarm tap water and pat dry. Avoid soaps.

What to expect

A local skin reaction is expected during treatment. Redness, flaking and soreness commonly develop by the end of the first week and may become more noticeable as treatment continues. Continue applying the cream if the reaction is mild and manageable. Stop using it and contact your dermatology team or GP for advice if:

- The pain or soreness is severe, is difficult to manage or is stopping you from sleeping or carrying out usual activities.
- There is scabbing and skin break down.
- There is pus (this might suggest infection)

Sometimes your dermatologist may recommend restarting the cream but using less frequently, once the side effects have settled. Stop using the cream and seek urgent medical advice if you feel very unwell or develop symptoms beyond the treated skin, such as severe diarrhoea, vomiting, mouth ulcers, fever or unusual weakness. For a severe allergic reaction, including difficulty breathing or swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, call 999 or attend the nearest emergency department.

After treatment

After you finish the course, the redness may take 4–12 weeks to settle. If a scab has formed, apply a thin layer of petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline, twice a day and allow it to come away naturally.

Occasionally skin lesions need a further cycle of treatment, do not respond or recur. If this happens, your doctor may ask you to return to the clinic for assessment.

Contact details

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