



Sun Damage Pre-Cancerous Topical Treatment

Imiquimod, Aldara, Zyclara, Fluorouracil, Efudex, Carac

These medications are used to treat certain types of growths on the skin. These are pre-cancerous growths (actinic keratosis) and a certain type of skin cancer (superficial basal cell carcinoma). Treating these conditions can decrease complications from them and prevent their progression.

Side Effects

Treatment area reactions may include redness, swelling, itching, burning, pain/tenderness, thickening/hardening of the skin, peeling/flaking/scabbing/crusting, or leaking a clear fluid. Also, changes in skin color may occur and may not go away.

If the skin reaction is severe (bleeding, formation of sores/blisters/ulcers), the topical cream may need to be temporarily stopped so that the skin can heal.

Flu-like symptoms (such as fever, tiredness, muscle aches), runny/stuffy nose, cough, diarrhea, nausea, and back pain may also occur. **DO NOT** apply this medication into the **eyes, nose, mouth, rectum, or groin**. If you get this medication in those areas, flush with plenty of water and contact your dermatologist.

Less serious side effects may include:

- Mild skin irritation, itching, dryness, flaking, scabbing, crusting, redness, or hardening of the skin where the medicine was applied.
- Changes in the color of treated skin.
- Headache, dizziness, chest pain, or back pain.
- Cold sores or fever blisters.
- Cold symptoms such as stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat, nausea, diarrhea, or loss of appetite.

This medication may make you more sensitive to the sun. Limit your time in the sun. Avoid tanning booths and sunlamps. Use **sunscreen** and wear protective clothing when outdoors. Tell your doctor right away if you get sunburned or have skin **blisters** or redness.

Allergic Reaction:

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives, difficulty breathing, swelling of your face, lips tongue, or throat.

Wash off the medicine and call your doctor at once if you have a serious skin reaction such as severe itching, burning, oozing, bleeding, or skin changes where the medicine is applied.