



5-Fluorouracil Cream (5-FU) Directions and Information

Professional Dermatology Care, PC

Information:

5-FU cream is topical chemotherapy that treats superficial non-melanoma precancers/cancers. The cream only binds to abnormal cells, stops growth, and destroys them. Destroying these “bad” cells may cause a reaction including but not limited to redness, dryness, burning, pain, blisters, swelling and erosion (loss of the upper layer of skin). Treated areas may be unsightly during and after therapy. *The cream will not damage “good” cells; therefore, no reaction will be seen on healthy skin.* The reaction may look patchy. Exposure to sunlight or other forms of ultraviolet radiation during treatment can increase the chance of getting a sunburn and increase the intensity of your reaction. Please avoid the sun as much as possible and keep applying sunscreen during treatment.

A rare but serious reaction to the cream can occur in patients with Dihydropyrimidine Dehydrogenase Deficiency. Blisters and sores inside the mouth, accompanied by fever during therapy is a sign. Please stop the medication immediately if you experience these symptoms and call our office. Reaction on the lip only is not a sign. Blisters on the lips could be due to cold sores. If this occurs, please let us know and we can prescribe Valtrex.

Directions:

Use 5-FU cream every night before bed for 14 nights if you have a diagnosis of Actinic Keratoses or for 21-28 nights if you have a diagnosis of superficial BCC or SCC in situ:

- Wash the affected area with soap and water and let dry
- Apply a thin layer of the cream over the affected area (like a lotion)
- Make sure you wash your hands after applying the cream
- In the morning, wash the treated area with soap and water
- Apply moisturizer and sunscreen! Yes, please moisturize throughout the treatment
- Repeat for the appropriate number of nights

After your recommended number of nights of treatment, apply Vaseline for at least 14 days to the treated sites. Keep those lesions greasy!

Follow up:

Do not forget to make your follow up appointment if needed. Your follow up appointment should be about 1 month after starting the treatment process – unless otherwise specified. Please feel free to take pictures during your reaction stage and post Vaseline treatment. Bring them with you- do not email them to us! If you have any questions or concerns, please call 703-860-1818.