

# FLUOROURACIL

## PATIENT INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

### WHAT IS IT & WHY I WAS PRESCRIBED THIS MEDICATION

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Your doctor has determined that you have significant sun damage with precancerous lesions called Actinic Keratosis. It is important that these lesions are treated adequately since there is a risk that they may convert to a skin cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) in the future.

You have been given a prescription for 5-fluorouracil, which is a topical chemotherapy medication used for the treatment of precancerous lesions.

This medication, when used properly, has been shown to be effective in reducing the number of precancerous lesions and potentially reduce the risk of developing a skin cancer in the future.

### HOW TO USE THE MEDICATION

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- Wash your face prior to application.
- Apply a thin layer to the areas that are to be treated. Your doctor will discuss the treatment areas with you.
- An ideal time to apply the medication is in the evening, 2 to 3 hours prior to retiring for bed. If you need to apply a moisturizing cream, wait for 30 minutes after applying the medication.
- The medication is typically used daily for a total of 30 days, however, in many instances the duration may vary.
- Use your daily moisturizer, sunscreen (and make-up) as you regularly would do.
- If your skin feels dry and tight, apply your moisturizer more frequently.
- Discontinue medications that contain retin-A, or other agents that may contribute to the irritation of your skin such as glycolic acids.
- Your doctor may have also prescribed a non-potent topical steroid. Examples of this may be triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, Desonide. You can apply this medication 2 to 3 times per day to help with the redness and irritation which commonly occurs from the use of topical chemotherapy medications.

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### SIDE EFFECTS

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Most patients will not experience any side-effects the first few days of treatment. Following this, many patients develop a variable degree of redness, itchiness, burning, dryness of the skin and discomfort in the treated areas and some areas may even scab. It is important that you realize that the above symptoms are normal. As noted in the instruction section, you should moisturize your skin and use the topical steroid which is prescribed for you. However, if these symptoms become severe, discontinue the medication and contact our office. Systemic symptoms are extremely rare, but if you develop symptoms such as weakness or fatigue, aches/chills contact our office immediately and discontinue the medication.

### FOLLOW UP

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You need to follow-up with your doctor 2-3 months after the completion of the medication. It is important to keep this appointment to make sure the pre-cancerous lesions have resolved. If you have any questions during your treatment course you may be advised to come in and make sure that the course of treatment is adequate and not too severe and potentially treatment length or your skincare regimen may be altered.

You will then go back to your regular skin check intervals following completion of the treatment.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns.

### OTHER RESOURCES

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We work hard to publish only best patient education and comprehensive resources. We want to be your trusted source of all skin information. You will find additional educational information by scanning the following QR codes.

*Our Patient  
Education Blog*



*Our Monthly  
Newsletter*



*Our Educational  
Youtube Videos*



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