
5-Fluorouracil (5-FU / Efudex)

Your provider has prescribed 5-Fluorouracil cream or ointment (Efudex, 5-FU) for actinic keratosis (precancerous lesions) or superficial skin cancer. 5-FU targets only abnormal, sun-damaged skin cells at risk of turning into cancer and leaves normal skin cells alone.

Application Instructions

- Massage a small amount of this cream/ointment onto the following area(s) twice daily:

Area(s): _____

- Use the medication for: _____ days

Expected Results & Side Effects

While using the cream/ointment, the treated area will get red and may develop crusty or oozing spots. Keep using the cream. This is the desired response and means the medication is working on the precancerous or cancerous lesions.

- If the area bleeds, becomes extremely painful (some irritation is expected), or appears infected, please call the clinic.
- If it is the weekend or holiday and you are having problems, STOP the medication and call the office on the next business day.

After Treatment

- After you complete the medication, you may apply Aquaphor to the treatment area 2–3 times per day.
- Keep your next scheduled appointment so your provider can check the area.