



Imiquimod (Aldara) Cream

Imiquimod cream is FDA approved for the treatment of actinic keratosis (i.e., pre-cancerous skin growths), basal cell carcinoma and genital warts. It is an immune modulating medication that brings the immune system to a site of skin to which it is applied.

What to expect:

- Imiquimod is supplied in small aluminum packets. Tear a corner of the packet or puncture the packet with a pin and gently squeeze out a small amount of cream for each application. Always apply the cream at bedtime and leave on for 8-10 hours before washing off. Do not apply a bandaid or dressing after applying imiquimod.
- The exact treatment duration depends on how quickly you get to the goal endpoint, which is redness and crusting of the affected areas. We will have you send photos of the site through gateway so we can monitor your progress.

How much cream to use:

- If you're treating a large area (e.g., whole face, full extremity, chest), apply no more than 1 packet per application.
- If you're treating a smaller area (e.g., individual spots or a small region of the face), use only a small amount of the packet, paper clip the unused packet and store it in your fridge until you finish that packet.

How often to apply:

☑ Actinic Keratosis: 5 times a week for 4 weeks

☑ Basal/Squamous cell carcinoma: 5 times a week for 6 week (Monday through Friday)

☑ Genital warts: 3 times a week for 16 weeks

Precautions when using this medication:

- You may get sunburned more easily and your skin will also be more sensitive to UV exposure. Avoid sun and tanning beds. Use sunscreen, wide-brimmed hats and wear clothing that protects you from the sun.
- Apply sunscreen at least 1 hour after applying Aldara.
- Do not use this medication if you are pregnant or nursing.

Please call the office at 781-416-3500 if you experience: pain, yellow crusting, oozing or pus at the application site, or if you develop flu-like symptoms with swollen glands. You can use patient gateway to send photos or advice requests.

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