



Efudex (5-Fluorouracil 5%) Cream

Efudex is a topical chemotherapy cream that is FDA-approved for the treatment of actinic keratoses ("AKs" or pre-cancerous lesions) and basal cell carcinoma (BCC).

How to apply Efudex:

- Wash your hands before and after applying this cream. You do not have to wash the application site prior to application, but if you do wash the area, please wait 10-15 minutes before applying Efudex to make sure it is totally dry.
- Apply a thin film to the affected areas with a slight margin around the area.
 - ☑ **For AKs:** twice daily (i.e., morning and night) for 2-4 weeks.
 - ☑ **For BCCs:** twice daily (i.e., morning and night) for 6 weeks.
- The exact treatment duration depends on how quickly you get to the goal endpoint, which is redness and crusting of the affected areas. Complete healing may not be evident for 1-2 months following treatment. Do not cover the treated site with bandages or dressings.
- If you develop moderate to severe pain, weeping, oozing, please stop using the cream and call the office to discuss next steps with treatment.

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 Efudex.
- Do not use this medication if you are pregnant or nursing.

Prevent more AKs and/or skin cancers from forming by protecting your skin from the sun:

- Stay out of the sun in the middle of the day (from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
- Wear sunscreen – An SPF of at least 30 is best.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, or long skirt outside.
- NOT use tanning beds

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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