



5-Fluorouracil

You have been prescribed 5-Fluorouracil (AKA “5-FU, Efudex or Carac”), which is a topical chemotherapy cream that treats precancerous and cancerous growths.

How it Works

5-FU cream selectively destroys precancerous and cancerous cells in the skin while retaining the normal healthy skin cells.

Application

- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Make sure the treatment area is clean and dry.
- With a cotton-tipped applicator or clean fingertip, apply a thin film to the treatment area. Rub the medicine in until it disappears.
- Immediately after application, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly.

What to Expect

5-FU will induce inflammation in the skin. Expect your appearance to look worse and to feel uncomfortable while treatment progresses. Your reaction may include redness, soreness, oozing, crusting, and scabbing. You can use Vaseline to help soothe skin and help with any dryness or discomfort. Although the skin seems to be worse, this is a sign that the medication is working. Sometimes, it can take several weeks after treatment completion to see improvement in your condition.

When 5-FU is applied to the skin, the following usually happens:

- Redness of the affected area (generally within 3 to 5 days).
- Then blistering, peeling, and cracking (within 11 to 14 days) with occasional open sores and some discomfort.
- The treated skin will flake away.
- Some skin redness will continue for some time after the medicine is stopped. Scarring is not expected.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office 603-742-5556.