

5-Fluorouracil (Efudex, Fluoroplex, Carac) Treatment Guidelines

1. Apply the medication with your fingers to _____ twice a day, and rub in well. Wash hands immediately after applying.
2. You may expect the skin to become red in a few days, usually within 3 to 7 days. Redness will gradually increase until tenderness, scaling and even a little ulceration occurs. A certain amount of this irritation is necessary to achieve a cure. The usual period of treatment varies from 14 to 21 days.
3. If you have any questions or anxiety about your response to the treatment, please contact our office at 916.784.7546.
4. **DO NOT TREAT** the eyelids, lips or folds of skin from the nose to the corner of your mouth. The medication tends to accumulate in these areas and cause a more severe reaction there. If you accidentally get medication in one of these areas, do not panic. Thoroughly wash your entire face with soap and water, rinse carefully and then reapply the Efudex to the appropriate sites.
5. After the redness has subsided, usually two weeks after the end of treatment, the skin will appear smooth and free of the rough keratosis. There may be slight depressions in the areas where the inflammation was quite severe; this indicates that there was good destruction of this keratosis. The person who has the most severe reaction will often have the best result, and will have fewer recurrences.
6. Retreatment after several months or years may be needed, but you should not do this without specific advice. You might have a different condition which requires different treatment.
7. You may expect certain side effects during treatment.
 - a. The skin does become red and splotchy and there may be a burning sensation, slight pain or even a little bleeding. If your entire face becomes red, swollen and painful, **STOP** the medication and give us a call.
 - b. The eyes may become irritated if the medication gets into them, but do not be alarmed because tears will quickly wash it away.
 - c. The skin will be more easily sunburned than before treatment, so be sure to use a sunscreen before exposure to the sun.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call!