

## 5-Fluorouracil (Efudex™) Instructions

5-Fluorouracil is a chemotherapeutic agent. It is used to treat actinic keratoses, which are pre-cancerous skin lesions that occur after long-term sun exposure. 5-fluorouracil may also be used to treat superficial forms of skin cancer, including superficial basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma in-situ (SCCIS).

When using 5-fluorouracil cream, the most common side effect is a skin reaction at the application site. This reaction indicates the medication is working to treat your condition. Side effects can include redness, swelling, development of sores, blisters or shallow ulcers, thickened skin, skin peeling, scabbing, crusting, itching, burning, and changes in skin color. While these reactions typically heal after treatment, it is possible that a change in skin color will not fully resolve.

5-fluorouracil can make you sunburn more easily. Wear protective clothing and use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors. Avoid tanning beds and unnecessary sun exposure.

Do not use 5-fluorouracil if you have a known DPD deficiency, as this can lead to serious side effects. 5-fluorouracil is not safe for use during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

### **Your Direction For Use**

\_\_\_\_\_ Apply a thin layer of 5-fluorouracil in the morning and at bedtime to the \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.

\_\_\_\_\_ Apply a thin layer of 5-fluorouracil at bedtime to the \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.

\_\_\_\_\_ Combine 1:1 with calcipotriene and apply a thin layer of 5-fluorouracil twice daily to  
the \_\_\_\_\_ for 4 days.

Contact our office if you have any concerning side effects, or if after one week of applying 5-fluorouracil you have no skin reaction. Follow up in our office as directed to evaluation for efficacy.

