

## Imiquimod (Aldara™) Instructions

Imiquimod is an immune response modifier. It is used to treat actinic keratoses, a pre-cancerous skin condition usually arising on sun-exposed skin. Imiquimod may also sometimes be used to treat superficial forms of skin cancer: superficial basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma in-situ (SCCIS). (Using imiquimod to treat SCCIS has been studied, but it is an off label use.)

When using imiquimod cream, the most common side effect is a skin reaction in the application area. This reaction, which indicates the medication is working to treat your condition, can include redness, swelling, a sore, blisters or shallow ulcers, skin that becomes hard or thickened, skin peeling, scabbing and crusting, itching, burning, pain, and changes in skin color. While such reactions typically heal after treatment, it is possible that a change in skin color will not fully resolve.

Imiquimod 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.

A rare but more serious side effect to imiquimod is a flu-like reaction, which can include fever, chills, aches, tired feeling, or swollen glands. Stop using imiquimod and call our office at 303-604- 1444 immediately if this reaction occurs.

### Your Directions for Use

Apply imiquimod three times weekly to affected area for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Apply a thin layer at bedtime and wash off in the morning.

Apply imiquimod at bedtime Monday through Friday for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Wash off in the morning.

Apply imiquimod every night at bedtime for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Wash off in the morning.

**TIPS:** Imiquimod comes in small foil packets. If you do not require a complete packet to cover the area you are treating, you may fold the top of the envelope, seal it with a paperclip and use the remainder for your next application. For unaffected areas that may come into contact with imiquimod, apply petroleum jelly to the unaffected area prior to applying imiquimod

**Contact us via the patient portal at [bvderm.com](http://bvderm.com) or call our office at 303-604-1444 for any concerning side effects – especially the development of flu-like symptoms.** Also call if after one week of applying imiquimod, you have no skin reaction. Follow up in our office as directed to evaluate for efficacy.

