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APPLICATION OF EFUDIX CREAM

Efudix cream is used to treat precancerous sunspots on the skin (solar keratoses) and some superficial skin cancers. The active ingredient, 5-fluorouracil, belongs to a group of anti-cancer medicines and destroys cancerous and pre-cancerous cells while having little effect on normal skin.

The treatment reaction is unpleasant and we may have discussed whether to treat one area of the face at a time. These may include a) the scalp, b) the forehead and nose and c) the cheeks and peri-oral skin. Areas such as the décolleté, each forearm and each lower leg can also be treated one at a time. Each area should be treated for a month.

You should apply Efudix every morning, rubbing it sparingly with forefinger into the skin. Take care in applying it around the eyes or mouth and avoid open wounds or cuts. Sunblock or cosmetic cover can be applied thereafter. At night you should wash your face as usual and then apply Savlon cream (or Fucidin H if prescribed). This contains an antiseptic and prevents the skin erosions from getting infected.

After a few days of Efudix applications, skin lesions in the area that you are treating will become inflamed and red. They may then become eroded and crusted with associated discomfort or itching. Efudix will also treat skin abnormalities invisible to the naked eye and these will also become inflamed. After stopping treatment, the skin should heal up rapidly though redness may persist for one to two months.

You should expect discomfort and inflammation as the skin lesions respond to treatment. However, if the reaction is so severe that you wish to discontinue the course of Efudix then please inform my office. Likewise, please contact us if there are effects other than those mentioned above or if you feel systemically unwell

Do not use Efudix Cream if you think you may be pregnant or are breast-feeding.

Sunlight may exacerbate the effects of Efudix and should be avoided.