



DERMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATES OF ITHACA
Healthier Skin Since 1983

What are Efudex[®] and Carac[®] cream?

Efudex[®] and Carac[®] are chemotherapy creams that target and clear abnormal cells. Efudex[®] destroys cancerous and pre-cancerous cells, while having little effect on normal cells.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Apply the cream as soon as possible, however, if it is close to your next dose, skip the dose and carry on as before. **Do not** apply a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

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Efudex[®] and Carac[®] 5-Fluorouracil Cream

You have been prescribed Efudex[®] or Carac[®]/5-FU cream for:

- Actinic keratosis (precancerous skin damage)
- Squamous cell skin cancer (SCC)
- Warts
- Other: _____

Site: _____

Frequency:

- Twice a day for _____ weeks
- Twice a day for 1 week, then repeat after taking 3 weeks off

Directions for Use

- Only use cream on the skin and avoid contact with the eyes, nostrils and mouth.
- Cleanse affected area (listed above), rinse well, pat the area dry and wait 10 minutes before applying the cream.
- Apply the cream sparingly to the affected area. Be sure to avoid contact with your eyes, nostrils and mouth.
- Wash hands immediately and thoroughly after applying Efudex[®] or Carac[®] Cream.

Good to Know

- When using these creams, it is likely that the area of the skin that is being treated will become red. This will probably be followed by inflammation/swelling, possibly some discomfort, skin erosion and eventually healing.
- Treated areas may be unsightly during and after therapy, but be reassured, the worse you look, the better you are doing!
- After stopping treatment, you may find that your skin takes two months to heal completely.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight or other forms of ultraviolet irradiation during treatment, as the intensity of the reaction may be increased.
- This medication is to be used as directed; it should not be used for any disorder other than that for which it was prescribed.
- If you develop abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, fever, or chills while on Efudex[®] or Carac[®] therapy, stop the medication and contact the office immediately at (607) 257-1107.
- Due to the potential for side effects, you should make an appointment with the office at the end of each treatment week to be evaluated for your response to therapy.