

# EFUDEX (5-Fluorouracil Cream 5%)

## WHAT IS EFUDEX CREAM AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

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Efudex cream is used to treat precancerous and very thin skin cancers in the top layer of the skin. The active ingredient fluorouracil, belongs to a group of anti-cancer medicines.

### How Efudex Works

Efudex destroys cancerous and pre-cancerous cells, while having little effect on normal cells. Efudex will also treat abnormalities of the skin that were previously not visible to the naked eye. These abnormalities may become red and inflamed.

- When you use Efudex it is likely that the area of the skin that you are treating will become red. This will probably be followed by inflammation/swelling, possibly some discomfort, skin erosion and eventually, healing.
- This is the expected normal response to treatment and shows that Efudex is working.
- Rash may occur in areas other than where cream was directly applied.
- Sometimes the response is more severe; if your skin becomes much worse, you experience pain, or if you are worried, please call the office. (203-792-4151)
- After stopping treatment, you may find that your skin takes one to two months to heal completely. Sun sensitivity may also persist several weeks beyond the last application of the medicine.

## HOW TO APPLY EFUDEX

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- Only use Efudex Cream on the skin and avoid contact with the eyes and mouth.
- Use the cream twice a day (morning and evening).
- Clean treatment area with lukewarm water. Blot area to dry, with a clean cotton towel.
- Wait 15 minutes. Then apply cream to treatment area, in as thin a layer as possible. Rub cream in until it disappears.
- It is **very** important that you do not use too much cream and do not apply the cream on open cuts.
- Avoid the sun, and wear hats and sunscreen while using Efudex as it makes you much more likely to burn.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after using this cream.

### No-Nos when using EFUDEX

- Do NOT get cream too close to the eyes, lips, or any other mucous membrane
- Do NOT apply cream to wounds, cuts, or open skin
- Do NOT continue to apply to skin if skin becomes raw/oozing, or if pain becomes too severe [STOP cream if experiencing greater than 6 out of 10 pain]
- Do NOT apply right before bedtime; nighttime application is recommended after dinner to allow time for absorption
- Do NOT continue to apply if you develop stomach pains/fever/flu like symptoms
- Never treat an area of skin larger than (9x9 inches) at any one time. This area is approximately the size of a dinner plate.

**Apply to: \_\_\_\_\_ twice a day for: \_\_\_\_\_**

# Examples of normal skin response to Efudex treatment

