

## 5-Fluorouracil (Efudex™) Instructions

5-Fluorouracil is a chemotherapeutic agent. It is used to treat actinic keratosis, which are a pre-cancerous skin condition usually arising on sun-exposed skin. 5-fluorouracil may also sometimes be used to treat superficial forms of skin cancer: 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 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, 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.

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. Do not use 5-fluorouracil if you are pregnant or become pregnant. Do not use while breastfeeding.

**Contact our office via the patient portal at [bvderm.com](http://bvderm.com) or call us at 303-604-1444 if you have any concerning side effects.** Also call if after one week of applying 5-fluorouracil you have no skin reaction. Follow up in our office as directed to evaluation for efficacy.

