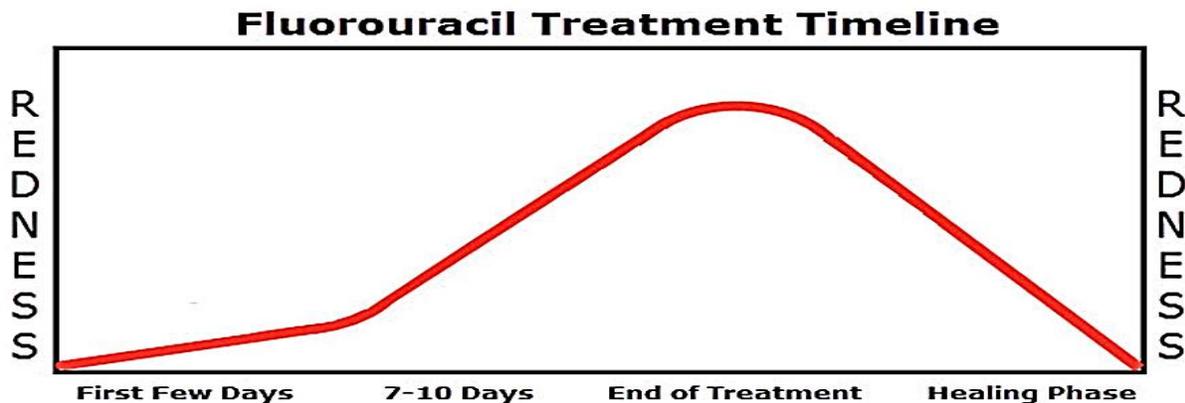


Topical Fluorouracil

Fluorouracil is the active ingredient in a number of medications including Efudex®, Carac®, and generics. Its most common use in dermatology is to treat ‘actinic keratoses’ and certain skin cancers. Fluorouracil specifically kills atypical, rapidly-growing cells while allowing healthy skin to survive.

The most important thing to know about this treatment is that the application sites *will* become inflamed. However, *significant* inflammation isn’t usually noticeable until 5-7 days after treatment has started. You can expect any resulting redness, sensitivity, or slight crusting to worsen up until the point that the medication is stopped. It then takes about a week to resolve. Because of this, *you should carefully consider your social and/or business obligations when planning to start this treatment.*



Other considerations:

- 1) Avoid exposing treatment areas to prolonged direct sunlight.
- 2) **Covering the treatment sites with a bandage (while the medication is still on your skin) can cause a much stronger reaction and generally should be avoided.** If you must cover a treatment site, simply make sure that the area is thoroughly cleansed and *free of medication* before applying any bandages.
- 3) A light coat of makeup may be worn over the affected areas during the daytime if you’re applying Fluorouracil at night. It is generally recommended to avoid using Fluorouracil *under* makeup unless otherwise directed by your physician.
- 4) Don’t worry if you miss an application or two for any reason. It should not affect the outcome.
- 5) The goal is to use this medication for the full duration prescribed. As seen in the above chart, *the redness and irritation you experience is expected.* However, if at any time you feel that the reaction is too strong or uncomfortable, discontinue its use and contact your physician.
- 6) At the end of the treatment, you may use an ointment such as Aquaphor® or Hydrocortisone 1% to soothe any discomfort. Either of these are available over-the-counter without a prescription.

Treatment Instructions

To Be Applied: Once per day Twice per day Other _____

Application Site(s): _____

Treatment Duration: 2 Weeks 3 Weeks 4 Weeks Other _____