

5-FU Field Treatment Guide



Application: Day 5

Day 10

Day 15

Day 22

Day 30



Healing: Day 2

Day 6

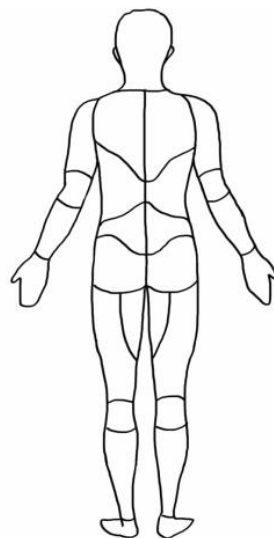
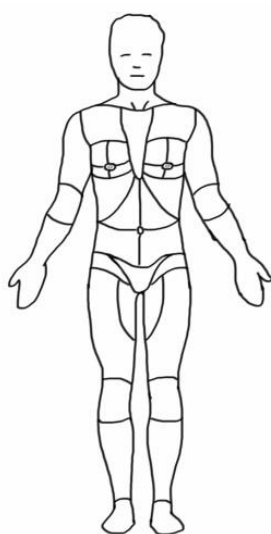
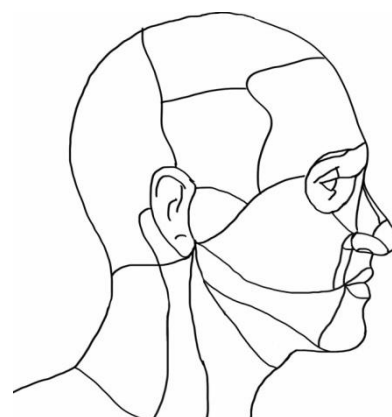
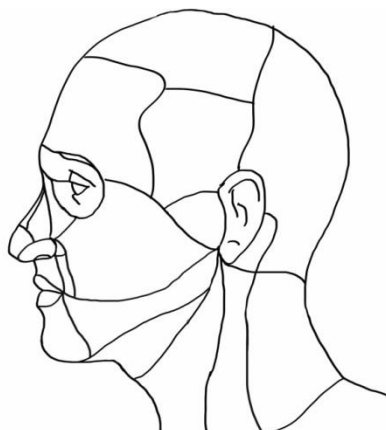
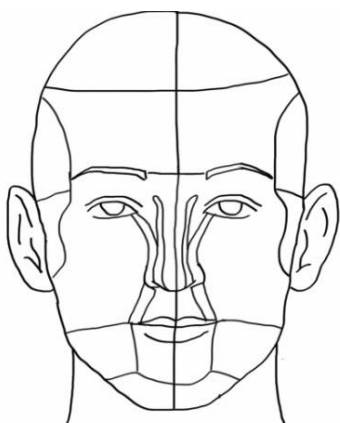
Day 10

Day 14

Day 21

Day 66

Apply in areas marked below



Roswell Park Dermatology Center: **716-845-3378**. Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
After hours, please call **716-845-2300**.

Topical 5-FU

Overview: 5-FU, also known as 5-Fluorouracil (flure oh your' a sill) is used to treat actinic keratosis (AK) - thick, rough, scaly spot(s) on can form on skin after years of sun exposure. AK is not skin cancer, but if not treated, a small percentage will become squamous cell skin cancer. 5-FU is an antimetabolite. It works by killing fast-growing cells such as the abnormal cells in actinic keratosis and basal cell carcinoma. Brand names include Carac® cream, Efudex® cream or solution, and Fluoroplex® cream.

Using 5-FU: To help you remember your medication, apply it around the same times every day. Follow the directions on the label carefully – ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Use this medication exactly as prescribed – do not use more or less.

- For actinic keratosis, use the medication until the lesions start to peel off (usually 2-4 weeks). After your treatment is completed, it may take 1-2 months until the lesions are completely healed.
- For basal cell carcinoma, use until the lesions are gone – usually 3-6 weeks, but it may take 12 weeks.
- Apply with a nonmetal applicator, glove, or finger. (Wash finger very well immediately afterwards.).
- Do not cover the treated areas with a bandage or dressing, unless your doctor tells you to do so.
- Do not apply the cream or the solution to your eyelids, eyes or inside your nose or mouth.
- For the first few weeks of treatment, the treated areas will feel irritated and look red, swollen, and scaly. This is a sign the 5-FU is working. Do not stop using this medication unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When peeling occurs, you can use Vaseline® or Eucerin® Aquaphor in between applications to the affected areas to help the healing process.

Using Combination Calcipotriene ointment/5-FU

- Apply a thin layer of calcipotriene ointment to the affected area and then apply 5-fluorouracil cream on top on this. Do this 2 times a day for 4-10 days. Stop applying the cream when peeling begins. It may take up to 14 days for peeling to occur.

Before you Begin: Tell your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to 5-FU, if you have/had a dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) enzyme deficiency, or if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Possible Side Effects: Burning, crusting, redness, discoloration, irritation, pain, itching, rash, or soreness in areas where 5-FU was applied, and sensitivity to sunlight. Talk to your doctor if side effects are severe.

What You Can Do

- Avoid any unnecessary or long exposure to sunlight and UV light (tanning booths). Wear protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors, even for a short time.
- If you develop a rash, do not put anything on it unless your doctor approves it.
- If you miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed application and continue on your regular schedule. **Do not apply a double dose.**
- Keep this medication in the original container, and keep the container tightly closed. Store it at room temperature, away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom) and away from children and pets. Efudex can be toxic to pets if eaten. Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed.

When to Call Your Doctor: The following symptoms are not common, but call us immediately if have severe stomach pain or vomiting, bloody diarrhea, fever or chills, or severe red skin rash.

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