

Use of Imiquimod (Aldara)

Background

- Imiquimod cream is often used for the treatment superficial basal cell skin cancers, squamous cell skin cancers, actinic keratoses, verruca vulgaris, condyloma (genital warts), and molluscum contagiosum.
- Imiquimod works by stimulating the immune system, which helps the body to effectively attack abnormal cells or the viruses that cause warts and molluscum contagiosum.

Frequency and Duration of Use

- Begin using imiquimod three days per week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday schedule. You may increase to daily application Monday through Friday if after one to two weeks you are tolerating the treatment well.
- Imiquimod is generally used for approximately six weeks but may be used up to sixteen weeks.

Application Instructions

- Wash the affected area with mild soap and water. Allow the area to dry.
- Apply a thin layer to the affected area to be treated. If treating a small area, poke the packet with a pin and use just what is needed.
- After application, wash your hands with soap and water.
- You may use other skin products including creams, lotions, or cosmetics throughout the treatment process.
- If you get the imiquimod cream in your mouth or eyes rinse well with water right away.

Expected and Adverse Results

- Imiquimod can cause inflammation to both lesions and the surrounding areas. Treatment may leave affected areas with temporary redness, itching, swelling, stinging and burning. This is not an allergic reaction. This is the normal and desired reaction.
- If at any time during treatment you are concerned with the reaction, please feel free to call our office and make an appointment for follow up.