

Fluorouracil Treatment Instructions

- **Indication:** Fluorouracil is a topical chemotherapy used to treat actinic keratoses (precancers) and some low-risk non-melanoma skin cancers

- **Typical treatment course:**
 - Apply a thin layer to the area twice a day for two weeks.
 - If treating a large area (i.e. more than the area of one forearm), Dr. Burns will instruct you to split up the treatments. For example, if treating both forearms, you will treat one forearm for two straight weeks THEN start treating the other forearm for two weeks.
 - Applying to too large of an area will cause noticeable absorption, the symptoms of which mimic traditional chemotherapy.
 - DO NOT ALLOW PETS TO LICK THE SKIN WHERE THE MEDICATION IS APPLIED.
 - Only treat the area recommended by your physician. Do not self-treat other spots.
 - Do not treat prior to planned surgical procedures, as it will increase the risk of surgical site infection.
 - It is OK for the treatment area have exposure to the sun or get wet. It is OK Clothing, hats, or masks will not significantly change the treatment.
 - It is OK to exercise, but sweat can cause itching.

- **Typical reaction:**
 - You will get very red. The red areas indicate pre-cancers, and the more pre-cancers you start with the more red you will get.
 - Significant redness starts 5-7 days into treatment and persists 1 week after completing treatment.
 - The goal is a “glowing” sensation. If the area becomes painful, cracks, or bleeds, then you need to take a break from the medicine and APPLY OVER-THE-COUNTER HYDROCORTISONE TO RAPIDLY SOOTHE THE AREA.



A typical reaction to fluorouracil cream

- You will need to follow up with your dermatologist 3-6 months after completing treatment.

- ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CALL OUR OFFICE AT (541) 452-0180.