

NEIL S GOLDBERG, MD

77 Pondfield Road
Bronxville, NY 10708
(914) 337-4499

222 Westchester Avenue
White Plains, NY 10604
(914) 761-8140

PATIENT INFORMATION SERIES

7. EFUDEX OR 5-FLUOROURACIL (Application Instructions)

You have just been prescribed the drug *Efudex* or *5-Fluorouracil* for the treatment of pre-cancerous skin lesions. These are your instructions on its use.

- This medication works by destroying the abnormal cells. Although it is a chemotherapy drug, it does not get into the blood and is not associated with any effects outside of the area that it is applied to.
- Apply a small amount two times per day to the entire affected area.
- Wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
- The area will get very red. Eventually it will ulcerate (become raw). This is exactly what is supposed to happen.
- Stop after three weeks and allow the area to heal. It should heal with healthy, new skin from the sides and bottom, thus replacing the abnormal skin.
- If the pain, redness or other changes seem more severe than anticipated, call the doctor or come in.
- Some of you may have been instructed to use the medication differently. In that case you may have been told to apply the medication to the affected areas twice per day but only for two days per week. In this case the treatment regimen would last three months, not three weeks.
- Stay out of the sun while using *Efudex*, no matter how often you are applying it.