

## Guide to 5-Fluorouracil Therapy

When a patient presents with numerous actinic keratoses in a specific area of the body, a topical field treatment such as compounded 5-Fluorouracil/Calcipotriene cream is prescribed. This has the benefit of treating subclinical lesions that are often undetectable and allows extensive lesions to be treated without the discomfort of cryotherapy (liquid nitrogen).

### 1. Duration of Treatment

- 5-Fluorouracil/Calcipotriene cream is typically applied twice daily for 4-8 days depending on the location and the extent of precancerous lesions, during which time you should expect to have a reaction causing redness on the precancerous spots.

### 2. How to Apply

- **Preparation: Wash** the treatment area with a mild cleaner. Do not apply any other product (witch hazel, toners, or pre-prep solutions) to the skin. Apply 5-Fluorouracil with clean or gloved hands.
- **Face Application:** Apply a penny sized amount to the entire face, including hairline, eyebrows, nose. Apply to lips if advised by your provider.
- **Body Application:** Apply a thin layer to prescribed area.
- **Following Application:** Always remember to wash hands after application of cream.

### 2. What to Expect

- You should continue to treat until lesions have a rust-colored scab on them. Once this occurs, you should discontinue the medication.
- Areas typically are not painful, but we encourage against picking or premature disruption to treated areas.
- With a soft cloth, wash the treated area(s) with a gentle cleanser, bleach soaks, vinegar soaks, or clean water.
- Apply Vaseline, Aquaphor, or CeraVe ointment liberally to treated areas to aid the healing process.
- Avoid sun exposure during the entire treatment and recovery period, which can last from 7-10 days post treatment.

### Follow Up

- Your provider will advise you of a follow-up 1-2 months from completion of the treatment or your usual six-month follow-up.

**If you experience any concerning symptoms or have questions during your treatment, please call the office at 770-360-8881 or reach us by text at 678-673-3840.**

For after hour emergencies regarding your procedure, please contact one of our providers on their personal lines:

**Tiffani K. Hamilton, MD - 678-689-6001 / [drhamilton@hamiltonderm.com](mailto:drhamilton@hamiltonderm.com) / text 678-673-3840**

**Madison Hamilton, PA-C - 678-689-6004 / [mhamilton@hamiltonderm.com](mailto:mhamilton@hamiltonderm.com) / text 678-673-3840**

\* Please refer to the *Recommended Products List* for product and purchase options.