

Radiotherapy department Using Efudix cream

Efudix is a cream containing an anti-cancer drug (5-Fluorouracil or 5-FU) that is useful in the treatment of some very thin skin cancers and certain other abnormalities.

When you are prescribed Efudix

- Apply the cream **twice a day for 10 days**.

Using your fingers, rub a thin layer of the cream into the abnormal area of skin until it has all been absorbed. You can leave the skin exposed to the air. Then stop using the cream - **wait for 10 days**. Then **use the cream for another 10 days**.

- Because the drug is quite powerful, it is important to wash your hands thoroughly after using it so that it does not irritate the skin of your fingers.
- Keep the cream well away from the eyes. Do not rub your eyes with fingers that have been used to apply the cream.
- After a few days, the abnormal area will go red. There may be some soreness. Once the reaction has started, continue to apply the cream. If at any time the reaction is really unpleasant and sore, stop the treatment. If the reaction does not settle down and you are worried, contact the PDT specialist radiographer on the telephone number overleaf.



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Your follow-up appointment

We will give you an appointment for 8 weeks time, so that the consultant can:

- check if the cream has worked
- advise whether you should have another course of Efudix
- advise if a different treatment would be more appropriate

Contact details

In the unlikely event of any problem, contact:

Laura Foster, PDT specialist radiographer - **0161 446 8561**

If you visit your GP or are visited by your GP or home nurse in the first 2 - 3 weeks after treatment, please show them this leaflet.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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