

Efudex

Dermatology Associates of West Texas, LLP

For questions or an appointment, call (806)797-1202

Efudex is a topical medication used to treat precancerous lesions (Actinic Keratoses). Although this medication works well to treat patients who have a lot of “background” pre-cancerous change – it does not work as well for the thicker lesions. You will likely need combination treatment with Efudex to help clear the background of abnormal skin and liquid nitrogen treatments (freezing) to clear the islands of more aggressive thicker plaques of pre-cancer.

How to use: Apply a thin film of the medication to the indicated area

Length of treatment: Twice a day for three weeks

Apply medication to:

Expected Reaction: You can **expect a skin reaction** where the medication is used which includes redness, dryness, burning, irritation, crusting, and scabbing, or bleeding. **These reactions are normal** and expected when using this medication. Some patients, however, can have a dramatic response and cannot complete a full treatment (but go as long as you can up to 3 weeks). Once you begin using this medication and have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call the office.

Important points:

- *Be careful in the sun since you will be more **sensitive to the sunlight**.
- *It is often best to use this medication in the fall or winter but can be used any time of the year.
- * If or when you develop tender erosive areas -you can apply **Vaseline or other emollient** throughout the day.
- *You choose what 3 week you want to use this medication – it is best not to use it while on vacation or planning a big event where you will need to look “presentable.”
- ***If you have had a biopsy done – wait until you get results before starting Efudex.**
- ***You should not use Efudex if you have an upcoming procedure.**
- *If a spot was frozen in the area – wait until it heals first (about 2 weeks) before starting the Efudex.
- *Try to avoid getting the Efudex on the lips or eyelids unless specifically directed by the doctor.

NOTE: This is not a comprehensive information sheet. If you desire complete drug information, contact the pharmacist or refer to the “package insert”.