



Jordan B. Schwartzberg, MD

5-Fluorouracil Cream (5-FU)

The purpose of 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) cream is to try to destroy pre-cancerous skin lesions and early skin cancers. With your fingertips, apply 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) to the affected areas as directed. Our office will tell you how often to apply the medication and for how long to apply it. Wash your hands after applying 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) so you don't accidentally spread it to other areas.

As the medication works, many of the pre-cancerous and cancerous cells will die. Within days of starting treatment, you should expect these treated areas of skin to develop redness, scaling, crusting, and irritation. A certain amount of irritation is necessary to achieve a good result. If the redness, scaling, crusting, or irritation become too severe, stop using 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) for several days until the irritation improves.

If scaling or crusting develop, apply OINTMENT (either mupirocin, Vaseline, or whatever ointment specified by our office) at least five times daily to these areas. Wait 15 minutes for the 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) cream to dry prior to applying the OINTMENT. It is important to try to keep the affected areas covered with this OINTMENT around the clock to keep the areas "greasy". If the OINTMENT comes off, reapply it. This will help to prevent secondary infections that are a common side effect of 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU). Signs of an infection include excessive redness, increasing pain, excessive warmth, excessive drainage, and foul odor. If any of these symptoms develop, please contact our office. Also, if flu-like symptoms develop, please stop using 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) and contact our office.