Imiquimod Cream
Aldara

What is imiquimod cream?
Imiquimod (brand name Aldara) is a topical cream that you apply to your skin. It activates your body’s immune system to help treat some skin diseases.

Imiquimod cream is available only by prescription. It is most often prescribed for genital warts and some skin cancers.

How do I use it?
Imiquimod comes in a box of 12 or 24 small packets. Use each packet until the cream is gone. After you open a packet, fold over the edge and reseal it with a paperclip for future use.

- Apply the cream only to the affected area of your skin.
- Apply the cream:
  _____ time(s) a day
  _____ days a week
  On these days:  M  Tu  W  Th  F  Sa  Su
(Dermatologist: Fill in the blanks above and circle the days of the week that imiquimod should be used.)
- Use the cream for a total of ______ weeks.
- Your goal is to apply the cream a total of ______ times.
- Before you start using the cream, it might be helpful to mark the days on a calendar that you will use it. This can help remind you when and how long to use it.
Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help.

Dermatology Center: 206-598-5065

Cautions and Side Effects

- Apply the cream only to your lesions. Avoid putting it on areas of normal skin.
- Most people have skin irritation and inflammation after a few weeks of using imiquimod cream. These symptoms may include:
  - Redness
  - Itching
  - Sores
- About 20% of people (20 out of 100) get very strong reactions or even flu-like symptoms when using imiquimod cream. If your irritation is severe:
  - STOP using the medicine.
  - Take a few days off.
  If the irritation does not go away, call your health care provider to see if you should stop using the imiquimod cream.
- About 10% of people (10 out of 100) have no reaction at all after completing the full course of imiquimod cream as prescribed. Please let your health care provider know if this is true for you. It may mean that the imiquimod cream will not help your condition, and a different treatment may be needed.

Follow-up Visit

We will want to see you again 1 to 2 weeks after you are done with the treatment to check your warts or skin cancer. If they have not improved, we may consider doing a biopsy (taking a small tissue sample for testing) or doing surgery to remove the affected area.