

PATIENT RESOURCES

Efudex Cream 5%

Why this medication was prescribed:

You have been diagnosed with a vaginal dysplasia. Dysplasia means that abnormal pre-cancerous cells were found on a Pap smear and /or vaginal biopsy.

What is Efudex?

It is an anti-cancer cream and will destroy the abnormal cells present in your vagina. It will not be absorbed into your bloodstream and will not cause your hair to fall out. It is, however, very irritating to the skin.

Directions for use:

1. Prior to inserting Efudex, apply a zinc oxide diaper rash ointment, such as balmex, to the area surrounding the opening of the vagina, including the labia which are the folds of the vulva on either side of the vagina. This will protect the skin from irritation. You should also wear a pad.
2. Use just before going to bed.
3. Fill applicator to the **one gram (gm)** mark, and insert into the vagina once a week at bedtime for eight weeks.
4. You will also be given a vaginal applicator to measure and insert the Efudex cream. Rinse the applicator well after each use.
5. When you wake up, take a shower or bath right away. Clean the area well. Apply more of the zinc oxide ointment to continue to protect the skin, as more of the Efudex may continue to leak from the vagina. You should also wear a pad or panty liner. Continue this for 2-3 days after using the Efudex.
6. Repeat this process once per week for the next eight weeks.
7. Avoid sexual intercourse for at least three days after using Efudex. Be very careful with this medicine. Wash hands well and avoid contact with other areas of the body.

Possible side effects of vaginal Efudex:

1. Burning sensation on vulvar area (skin folds on either side of the vagina) or in vagina.
2. Possible failure of the treatment resulting in further treatment.
3. Possible recurrence of vaginal dysplasia (abnormalities).
4. Possible difficulty with intercourse.
5. Possible vaginal discharge.

When to call:

1. If you have vaginal or vulvar pain, discontinue use until you speak with your physician or nurse.
2. If you have any vaginal bleeding or abnormal discharge, discontinue use until you speak with your physician or nurse.
3. Please call the office if you have any questions.