

1. Efudex is a topical medication used to treat pre-cancerous lesions of the skin. It may be used over a short course of three weeks during which time it usually causes an intense reaction. It may also be used over a longer period of several months to lessen the degree of reaction. You should discuss this with your doctor.
2. Not all actinic keratoses (pre-cancerous skin lesions) are easily seen so you may experience a local reaction from the medication in areas you did not expect. As a result, it is impossible to predict the degree of reaction you will experience.
3. You will probably have a very obvious red rash that may raise questions if your employment requires you to interact with the public or handle food in public.
4. Hot weather and sweating will contribute to the overall discomfort of Efudex treatment.
5. The most common side effects are redness, itching, burning, tenderness, scaling, crusting, and swelling. If any of these become severe or if you notice any drainage that is green, yellow, or appears to be pus, please call our office.
6. The side effects of Efudex are generally only topical, so the use of Efudex should not make you sick with nausea, vomiting, or cause you to experience aches and pains.
7. It is important to keep your face/scalp/neck gently washed during treatment. You may apply Aquaphor lotion, Vaseline, or over-the-counter Hydrocortisone ointment to the area treated after applying Efudex. DO NOT apply prior to Efudex application.
8. It is expected that normal skin will replace the keratoses, but healing can take one to two months depending on the severity of your reaction, which varies greatly between people.
9. You may wish to treat sections of your face/scalp/neck separately in order to lessen the burden of inconvenience and discomfort, although some patients prefer to tackle everything all at one time.
10. Efudex can be used repetitively if new areas develop later.

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