Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

FLUOROURACIL (skin cream)

flure-oh-ure-a-sil

What does it do?

Fluorouracil is used to treat skin growths such as some types of skin cancers.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have other skin problems such as chloasma (brown patches on your face) or rosacea.
- *Fluorouracil* may cause birth defects. If you are planning to become pregnant, or find you are pregnant, contact your doctor. Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.

How should you use it?

Wash your hands, then using the tip of a cotton bud apply a thin layer to the affected area of skin regularly as directed. Some people may need to cover the treated area with a dressing. Your doctor will tell you if you need to do this. Wash your hands again after applying the cream, unless your hands are the affected area.

Do not apply *fluorouracil* immediately before bed. It may rub onto your pillow or sheets, and then may come into contact with healthy skin.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and apply your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, apply the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not apply two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Red, blistered, peeling, cracked, flaky, sore skin	This is expected and shows the cream is working. Tell your doctor if troublesome.
Persistent white marks or scarring	Tell your doctor if troublesome
More sensitive to sunlight where the cream has been applied	Protect the treated area from sunlight - see Other Information below

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Take care not to get any *fluorouracil* in your eyes, or on your lips (unless this is the area you are treating). If you get some in your eyes or mouth, rinse immediately with water.
- If the treated area of skin is exposed to the sun, the reaction to *fluorouracil* can be more severe. Try to avoid sun exposure. Stay inside for the middle part of the day.
- It may take a few weeks for *fluorouracil* to start working.
- Your skin will probably look worse while using *fluorouracil*. It may also feel uncomfortable. These are signs that the *fluorouracil* is working.
- Once your skin has healed, it may still look redder than normal and feel more sensitive. This should fade over a few weeks to months.
- If you have pets, make sure they don't lick the area where you apply the cream. *Fluorouracil* can be poisonous for pets. Keep the tube away from your pet.