



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Imiquimod topical

Other names: ALDARA® P

- **Imiquimod** (i mi kwi' mod) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a cream which is applied to the skin.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to imiquimod before using imiquimod.
- It is important to **use** imiquimod cream exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Do not use imiquimod cream more often or longer than directed by your doctor.
- **Before applying imiquimod cream, wash** your hands and the affected area with a mild soap and water and dry completely. **Apply** imiquimod cream over the area shown to you by your doctor. Gently rub a thin layer of cream into your skin until it is no longer visible. Do NOT cover the treated areas with a bandage or dressing unless your doctor tells you to. **Wash** your hands thoroughly after applying imiquimod cream.
- **Leave** the cream on the treated area for the amount of time your doctor tells you. Do not bathe or shower within 30 minutes of applying cream on the skin.
- **Do not apply** to the eyes, nostrils, lips, or in your vagina. If these areas come in contact with imiquimod cream, rinse thoroughly with plenty of water.
- **Do not let children or pets touch or lick your skin where the drug is applied.**
- **Store** imiquimod cream out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with imiquimod before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Skin redness, swelling, dryness, itching, and flaking commonly occur where the cream is applied and in surrounding areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin reactions are expected. • If very irritating, call your healthcare team during office hours. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
<p>Your skin may sunburn more easily than usual.</p>	<p>Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After sun exposure, if you have a severe sunburn or skin reaction such as itching, rash, or swelling, contact your healthcare team.

***Please ask your nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- **Flu-like symptoms** such as fever, chills, headache, nausea, muscle, or joint aches.
- Skin reactions such as **burning, bleeding, oozing, scabbing, or peeling** or other skin reactions which are so painful that you are unable to apply cream to the area.

CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., **TYLENOL®**).
- Back pain.
- Diarrhea.
- Unusual tiredness.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM
