

## Carac (0.5% fluorouracil) Cream Information Sheet

Carac (0.5% fluorouracil) is a topical chemotherapy cream that will treat pre-cancers (Actinic Keratosis).

<u>Instructions for use:</u> Apply a small amount of Carac to the clean dry affected area at night for 2 weeks (or as prescribed by your provider). Wash hands after application and wash off medication in the morning. This medication is for external use only, avoid eyes and corners of nose and mouth.

The most common *side effects* to Carac include redness, dryness, crusting, sores, weeping, swelling, and blisters. Side effects will depend on the degree of sun damage that you have and will vary from individual to individual.

## Appearance of skin before, during, and after treatment:

- 1. Before treatment pre-cancers (Actinic Keratosis) are seen as pink and scaly patches.
- During treatment precancers may become red, scaly, and irritated depending on the degree of sun damage. Keep in mind there may be areas affected that are not yet revealed that may light up (become red) during treatment.
- After treatment the face should feel smoother. After area is healed a follow up appointment is highly recommended to determine if further treatment is needed.

## Helpful tips during treatment

Aquaphor healing ointment (an over the counter product) or moisturizers will help soothe the skin. Either may be applied throughout the day. Refrigerating the moisturizer or ointment is recommended as it will offer a cooling effect. Your provider may write a prescription to help with discomfort on the day that this medication is given – use as directed. Tylenol or Motrin may be taken for pain relief if okay with your primary care provider. If these products or medications are not sufficient in helping relieve discomfort please call the office for further evaluation.

- \*Please avoid sun exposure during treatment.
- \*These medications are not approved for use during pregnancy or while nursing.

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