

Imiquimod Cream

Therapeutic Cheat Sheet

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TRADE NAME

- › Aldara (imiquimod 5% cream)
- › Zyclara (imiquimod 2.5% or 3.75% cream)

MECHANISM OF ACTION

- › Binds to toll-like receptor 7 and 8 and induces release of NF-KB¹
 - › Results in pro-inflammatory cytokine and chemokine release to generate Th1 response against tumoral or atypical cells¹

FDA APPROVED USES

- › Field therapy for actinic keratoses
- › Superficial BCC
- › External genital warts

OFF-LABEL USES

- › Imiquimod cream has been used off-label for dermatologic diseases including, but not limited to: lentigo maligna, nodular BCC, SCC in situ, verruca vulgaris, post-operative keloid prevention²

SIDE EFFECTS

- › Common
 - › Erythema
 - › Scaling
 - › Erosions/ulcerations
 - › Edema
 - › Hypopigmentation
- › Rare
 - › Fever
 - › Malaise
 - › Myalgias
 - › Diarrhea
 - › Headache
 - › Vitiligo³
 - › Psoriasis⁴

FDA APPROVED DOSING²

- › Actinic keratoses
 - › 5% cream: apply twice weekly for 16 weeks
 - › 2.5 or 3.75% cream: apply once daily for two 2-week cycles separated by 2 week break
- › Superficial BCC
 - › 5% cream: apply five times weekly for 6 weeks
- › External genital warts
 - › 5% cream: apply three times weekly for 6-10 hours for maximum 16 weeks
 - › 2.5 or 3.75% cream: apply once daily for maximum 8 weeks

PREGNANCY

- › Category C

RESULTS

- › Actinic keratoses⁵
 - › In a multicenter, single blind randomized trial, four treatment modalities for actinic keratoses were compared to determine efficacy of at least 75% clearance after 12 months of use
 - › 5% fluorouracil was significantly more effective at maintaining at least 75% clearance 12 months after use (74.7%) when compared to imiquimod (53.9%), MAL-PDT (37.7%), and ingenol mebutate (28.9%)
- › Superficial BCC⁵
 - › In a single blind, non-inferiority, randomized controlled trial, imiquimod was compared to 5-fluorouracil and photodynamic therapy (PDT) for treatment of superficial BCC
 - › Imiquimod was superior to PDT with overall treatment success of 83.4% and 72.8%, respectively
 - › 5-fluorouracil was non-inferior to imiquimod with overall treatment success of 80.1% and 83.4%, respectively
- › External genital warts⁷
 - › In a randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled trial, imiquimod 5% cream was compared to imiquimod 1% cream and vehicle and complete clearance rate after 16 weeks was 50%, 21%, and 11%, respectively
 - › The difference between complete clearances rates was statistically significant when comparing imiquimod 5% cream to both vehicle and imiquimod 1% cream (P < 0.001)⁵