

## About your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed topical fluorouracil for you.

## What is this medicine used for?

Fluorouracil belongs to a class of medications known as anti-metabolites. It works by interfering with the growth of abnormal cells which are eventually destroyed.

Fluorouracil is used on the skin to treat skin cancer and skin conditions that could become cancer.

This medicine is also used for other skin conditions as determined by your doctor.

## How should I use this medicine?

Before you apply this medicine to the skin, clean the affected area and dry well. Wait 10 minutes, then apply a small amount of medication to the affected skin. The medicine should be applied in a thin layer to the affected area and its surrounding (determined by the doctor) once or twice daily or as your doctor advises.

Be careful if applying the medicine around your eyelids, nose and lips and avoid any contact with the eyes or mouth. Wash your hands thoroughly after use.

If somebody else is helping you to apply the medicine, they should take precautions to avoid the medicine being absorbed through their skin. It is recommended that they should wear disposable surgical gloves, remove these after use and wash their hands thoroughly.

Do not cover the area with a bandage unless directed by your doctor.

Fluorouracil may cause redness, soreness, scaling, and peeling of affected skin within 1 or 2 weeks of use. This effect may last for several weeks after you stop using the medicine and it is to be expected. Sometimes a pink, smooth area is left when the skin treated with this medicine heals. This area will usually fade after 1 to 2 months. Do not stop using this medicine without first checking with your doctor.

## What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose of this medicine, apply it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next application, skip the missed application and carry on as before. Do not apply a double dose.

## What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor.

Skin irritation, burning, redness, dryness, pain, swelling, tenderness, or changes in skin color may occur at the site of application. Enlarged lymph nodes which appears transiently.

## What precautions should I take?

Inform your doctor of your medical history, especially of red/irritated/infected/open sores on skin, or if you have any allergies.

For women: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.

This medication must not be used during pregnancy. It may harm an unborn baby. If you become pregnant or think you may be pregnant, inform your doctor immediately. Consult your doctor for more details and to discuss reliable forms of birth control.

It is not known if this medication passes into breast milk. Due to the potential risk to a nursing infant, breast-feeding is not recommended while using this drug. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

The total area of skin treated at any one time should not be more than 23x23 cm (500 cm<sup>2</sup>) or 9x9 inches.

This medication may make you more sensitive to the sun. Avoid prolonged sun exposure, tanning booths, and sunlamps. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing when outdoors.

Inform your doctor if you are taking any other medicines or if you are applying any other medicines on the skin being treated.

## How do I store this medicine?

Keep this medicine away from heat and direct sunlight in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children.

*When in doubt, consult your doctor or pharmacist:*  
National Skin Centre  
1 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308205.  
Tel: 63508454

**TOPICAL  
FLUOROURACIL**

