

Aldara (Imiquimod)

You have been prescribed Aldara. This is an immune enhancing medication. This medication has been prescribed to help remove cancerous or pre-cancerous lesions from your skin. You can expect **a significant amount of inflammation** to occur where you apply the medicine. This means your skin may become red, scaly, and crusty. It also may become sore and tender. The more inflammation, the better response.

Aldara generally does not cause a reaction in "normal" skin. Even if you get a reaction at a site away from the area you are treating, only apply to the area your doctor directed.

If you feel your skin is too tender to continue using Aldara, you may take a brief “holiday” for 1 – 5 days where you do not apply the Aldara, then resume the previous regimen once you can tolerate it again.

Although Aldara is not yet “approved” by the FDA for the treatment of all skin cancers, it is well established in the research literature for this use. You may also note that this medication is used for genital warts.

Aldara comes in small packets. You should poke a hole at the top with the end of a paper clip and squeeze out **just enough medication** for the next use. Close the packet by folding the end over, using a small paper clip to help seal this end, and placing it in a zip lock bag to help prevent evaporation. Aldara can be very expensive, costing \$170 or more.

Occasionally, Aldara can cause “flu like” symptoms. If this occurs, notify the clinic.