

### **IMIQUIMOD (ALDARA) CREAM**

Imiquimod (Aldara) cream is a new topical treatment for persistent warts and various sun induced skin lesions. It works by locally stimulating your immune system to recognize the wart virus as a "threat" and destroy it. This is a totally new approach to wart and sun induced growth therapy. It has a significant advantage in that your own body's immune system actually kills the lesion. In this case, it is unlikely for the growth to return. Hopefully it will be effective in your case.

It is usually applied once a day or once every other day at bedtime. For most warts, the cream works better if it is covered with a Band-Aid. This helps the medication to penetrate into the thickened skin of the wart. It may not be possible to use a Band-Aid in certain areas. If not, just rub the cream in well.

The only significant side effect is the possibility that imiquimod (Aldara) may produce some local redness and irritation. If this occurs, you should stop applying the medication until the problem resolves. Then restart using the cream less frequently, such as every other day.

It often works very quickly but it can take up to 16 weeks of treatment to determine if the medication is effective.

Imiquimod (Aldara) cream comes in 12 or 24 small packages. Each package is good for multiple uses. Apply a small dot of the medication at the site of the wart and rub it in well. After applying it, you should fold the packet down and store in a plastic bag to keep the remainder from drying out.

If you have any other questions about this therapy, please ask before you leave the office.