

## **SOLARAZE**

Solaraze gel (3% diclofenac sodium) is a new medication for the treatment of multiple actinic keratoses. Actinic keratoses are the dry, red, scaling spots on the skin caused by sun damage. They often appear as the rough or uneven texture on facial skin. These spots are not true skin cancers, but in rare cases may turn into cancer years later. Treatment of these spots requires removal of the defective skin cells.

As you probably have experienced, there are various ways to remove actinic keratoses, including freezing with liquid nitrogen and actual removal off the surface of the skin with types of scraping procedures. In addition, there are other creams that have been used to treat actinic keratoses. These creams often produce a significant amount of irritation in the skin and it is difficult for most patients to follow through with this treatment.

Solaraze is a new medication, which is a type of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. It is chemically related to products such as Motrin or Advil. Its safety and effectiveness has been shown in many research studies. In addition, I have found many of my patients have benefited from the use of this medicine. It acts by stopping the process of inflammation involved in the formation of actinic keratoses. It can destroy the defective skin cells and can smooth out the rough scaling spots on your skin. This may also help in preventing the progression of actinic keratoses to skin cancer.

Solaraze is an easy to apply non-greasy gel. It should be applied as a thin layer to the affected area of the face once per day, preferably at night. Sunscreen should always be worn during the day to prevent further sun damage. Most patients put a sunscreen and/or moisturizer with sunscreen on in the morning and the Solaraze gel at night. The only significant side effect of Solaraze is local irritation. This would develop as some slight redness or irritation in the affected areas. A small amount of irritation is to be expected, but if it would become more of a problem then the Solaraze should be temporarily stopped and when it is restarted, used less frequently. There are no known drug interactions with Solaraze applied to the skin.

Solaraze is an advance in treatment and offers an easy way to treat sun damage and actinic keratoses. It can smooth out your skin as well as stop the cycle of actinic keratoses becoming larger and requiring surgical treatment.

If you have any other questions regarding this medication, please ask me before you leave the office.