



Bonus Monographs



Imiquimod (ih-MIH-kwih-mod)

PREGNANCY CATEGORY: B
CLASSIFICATION(S):
Immunomodulator
Rx: Aldara

ACTION/KINETICS

May induce cytokines, including interferon-alpha and others, to modify immune response. Minimal percutaneous absorption.

USES

External genital and perianal warts/condyloma acuminata in adults and children aged 12 and older.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Use in urethral, intravaginal, cervical, rectal, or intra-anal human papilloma viral disease.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Safety and efficacy have not been determined in clients less than 12 years of age. Use with caution during lactation.

SIDE EFFECTS

Dermatologic: Erythema, itching, erosion, burning, excoriation/flaking, edema, pain, induration, ulceration, scabbing, vesicles, soreness. **Systemic:** Fungal infection, fatigue, fever, flu-like symptoms, headache, diarrhea, myalgia.

HOW SUPPLIED

Topical Cream: 5%

DOSAGE

• CREAM

Genital/perianal warts.

Adults: Apply 3 times/week prior to normal sleeping hours; leave on skin

for 6–10 hr. Following treatment, remove by washing the area with mild soap and water. Continue treatment until there is total clearance of warts (16 weeks or less).

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

ADMINISTRATION/STORAGE

1. Wash hands before and after application.
2. Apply a thin layer to the wart area and rub in until cream is not visible.
3. Avoid using excessive amounts of cream; single-use packets contain sufficient cream to cover up to 20 cm².
4. Due to skin reactions, rest period of several days may be necessary. Treatment may resume once reactions subside.
5. May weaken condoms or vaginal diaphragms; do not use together.
6. For external use only. Avoid contact with eyes.
7. Do not occlude treatment area with bandages or other covers/wraps. Non-occlusive dressings (e.g., cotton gauze or underwear) can be used to manage skin reactions.
8. Do not store at temperatures greater than 30°C (86°F). Avoid freezing.

ASSESSMENT

Describe clinical presentation noting number and size of warts/condyloma, location, and condition of pretreatment area. Photographs may be useful in assessing response to therapy.

CLIENT/FAMILY TEACHING

1. Apply a thin layer of cream to completely cover each wart at bedtime, after bathing. Usually prescribed three times per week. Do not cover area with occlusive bandages or wraps.

★ = Available in Canada H = Herbal Drug IV = Intravenous Drug *bold italic* = life threatening side effect

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2. Wash hands before and after treatment, avoid eye contact.

3. Not a cure for genital warts but helps clear and diminish wart area. New warts may occur during therapy.

4. Avoid sexual contact (genital, rectal, oral) while cream is on skin. Wash off before sexual activity; may weaken condoms and diaphragms. Use extra protection and practice safe sex to avoid infecting and/or acquiring from partners.

5. May experience redness, peeling,

burning, itching, and swelling in treatment area; report if severe skin reaction occurs as rest period may be needed before resuming therapy once subsided.

6. Wash area with mild soap and water 6 to 10 hr after application.

7. Uncircumcised males treating warts under foreskin should retract foreskin and clean area daily.

OUTCOMES/EVALUATE

Clearing of genital and perianal warts/condyloma