

# Imiquimod cream

## Aldara (Imiquimod) Cream

### Patient Instructions

- Aldara cream should only be applied to the tumour(s) for which it is prescribed.
- Aldara is less effective than removal by surgical excision and there is a 1 in 5 chance that a tumour will not clear or will return
- A local skin reaction is expected and, if severe, a rest from treatment is needed. If the skin becomes infected, or severely painful or irritated, contact your doctor
- Headache, fever, tiredness and influenza-like symptoms can occur. These are generally mild and may be treated with paracetamol, but if they are troublesome, stop applying Aldara cream and contact your doctor
- Areas treated with Aldara may end up permanently lighter or darker in colour than the surrounding skin
- Areas treated with Aldara need to be protected from sunlight or sunlamps with clothing or a hat for the 6 weeks that the cream is used
- Areas treated with Aldara should not be covered with bandages or other dressings.
- Treatment must continue either for 6 weeks or until two boxes of sachets have been used — whichever comes first
- Missed doses should not be caught up, e.g. if a break is needed
- Open sachets containing the unused portion of cream should be stored where children cannot reach them.



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## Aldara (Imiquimod) Cream Patient Application Instructions for superficial Basal Cell Cancer

- Apply twice a day, morning and evening.
- Before applying, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Puncture Aldara sachet with clean needle and squeeze a small amount of Aldara cream onto a fingertip. An amount the size of a pinhead is enough for a 0.5 cm tumour (one sachet can cover an area the size of the palm and fingers of one hand).
- Apply the cream to the tumour and about 1 cm of the surrounding skin (the width of a fingertip).
- Rub gently until the cream is absorbed.
- Any excess Aldara cream that remains on your fingertip can be rubbed on your nose or ears.
- Ensure that you see your doctor at Pioneer Health Albany in two weeks of commencement of the Aldara course, so your doctor can assess your response to the therapy.
- If the skin tumour and/or surrounding skin becomes excessively red, inflamed or painful, stop Aldara application and see your doctor at Pioneer Health Albany.