

## Imiquimod (Zyclara)

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### About This Medicine

IMIQUIMOD (i mi KWI mod) treats rough, scaly spots on the skin caused by sun exposure. It may also treat warts on and around the genital and rectal areas caused by a virus. It does not kill the virus and it may still be possible to spread the virus to others. It will not treat infections caused by bacteria. It is given topically (applied to the skin).

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

### Possible Side Effects

- Nausea
- Tiredness
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle/joint aches, and tiredness
- Headache
- Skin reactions including redness, scabbing, crusting, flaking, scaling, dryness, swelling
- Ulceration (blisters)/erosion (raw skin), weeping, oozing
- Application site pain, itching, burning

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in greater than 4% of people treated with imiquimod. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

### Warnings and Precautions

- Severe skin reactions to the affected and surrounded area, such as swelling, weeping (peeling off) and erosion (raw skin).
- Exposure to sunlight/light should be avoided, including sunlamps and tanning beds, due to increased risk of sunburn susceptibility. People with sunburns should wait until fully recovered before using imiquimod.

**Note:** Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your care team.

## How to Take Your Medicine

- Imiquimod should be applied as directed by your care team.
- **Imiquimod is for skin use only. Avoid contact with the eyes, lips, and nostrils**
- It is recommended that imiquimod cream should be applied before bedtime and be left on your affected skin for approximately 8 hours, after which, you should wash away the cream with mild soap and water.
- The treated area should not be covered up with bandages.
- Wash your hands with a mild soap and water before applying the cream and when you are finished applying the cream.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine at room temperature. Avoid freezing. Store pumps upright.
- Unused and partially used packets should be thrown away. Discuss with your care team or your care team how to dispose of unused medicine.

## Treating Side Effects

- Avoid sun and sunlamp exposure and use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors even for a short time. Cover up when you are out in the sun. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your care team about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.

## Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of imiquimod with foods.
- This medicine may interact with other medicines. Tell your care team about all the prescription and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) that you are taking at this time. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

## When to Call Your Care Team



Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Headache that does not go away
- Muscle and joint aches
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking or is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- Signs of severe skin reactions such as skin weeping (peeling off) or erosion (raw skin)
- Itching or pain that is bothersome

## Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** Talk with your care team if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while taking this medicine. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Talk with your care team about breastfeeding during treatment. You may need to stop breastfeeding.

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