



IMIQUIMOD FOR BASAL CELL CARCINOMA

Simplified Patient Instructions • Imiquimod 5% Cream

What is imiquimod?

Imiquimod is a prescription cream that stimulates your immune system to attack abnormal skin cells. It may be used for selected **low-risk basal cell carcinomas (BCCs)** when recommended by your skin specialist.

YOUR USUAL TREATMENT PLAN

Medicine	Imiquimod 5% cream
Frequency	5 times per week — commonly Monday to Friday
Duration	6 weeks , unless your clinician gives you a different plan
Area	BCC plus approximately 5–10 mm of surrounding normal skin

HOW TO APPLY IMIQUIMOD

- **1. At bedtime:** About 30 minutes before bed, make sure the treatment area is clean and dry.
- **2. Apply the cream:** With a clean finger, put imiquimod on the BCC and 5–10 mm of nearby normal skin.
- **3. Rub in gently:** Use enough cream to initially see it on the skin, then rub it in until it disappears.
- **4. Wash your hands** after applying.
- **5. Do not cover** the treated area unless your clinician specifically tells you to.
- **6. The next morning:** Wash the treatment area.

EXPECTED REACTION: Redness, swelling, warmth, crusting and small areas of erosion are common. The strongest reaction often occurs around weeks 3–4.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING TREATMENT

The amount of inflammation varies from person to person.

MILD TO MODERATE REACTION

- Redness and swelling are expected and usually mean your skin is responding.
- Crusting or small raw areas can develop as abnormal cells are cleared.
- Use Vaseline, Aquaphor or another wound-care ointment during the day to keep the area comfortable.

WHEN TO TAKE A BREAK

If the reaction becomes excessive or intolerable:

Stop imiquimod for a few days and allow the skin to settle. Once improved, restart at a slightly lower application frequency as directed by your clinician.

FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS

Mild flu-like symptoms can occur. If symptoms are mild, treatment may be continued. **Stop treatment if symptoms are severe** and contact your clinician.

AFTER TREATMENT

- Continue Vaseline, Aquaphor or an equivalent wound-care ointment twice daily for about one week.
- The treated skin may look quite inflamed before it heals. Healing is usually rapid once treatment stops.
- Keep your scheduled follow-up appointment so the treatment site can be assessed.

CONTACT CENTRAL ISLAND SKIN IF YOU ARE UNSURE

Call 250-755-1005 if you are unsure whether to continue, the reaction becomes severe, or you develop significant fever/chills or other concerning symptoms.

Central Island Skin

www.centralislandskin.com • 250-755-1005

Use imiquimod only as prescribed by your skin specialist. This handout supports, but does not replace, your individualized treatment instructions.