Imiquimod and Tazarotene for Wart Treatment

Imiquimod cream (a.k.a., Aldara) is a cream that helps your immune system destroy skin growths. It is used to treat warts, precancerous skin growths and some skin cancers. Imiquimod causes local irritation and even ulceration when it works.

Instructions for use

1. Your provider will indicate the specific frequency and duration of your treatment. Typically, Aldara cream is applied to the lesions once daily at bedtime. The duration will be determined by your provider.
2. First, in the evening apply over-the-counter salicylic acid.
3. Then apply a small amount of Imiquimod Cream to the affected area and then cover it with a bandage to be left on overnight.
4. Rinse in the morning.
5. The next morning, file wart daily with emery board or pumice stone. Discard the emery board every 1-2 days and use a new one.
6. Apply tazarotene gel in the morning and then cover the area with a bandage.
7. If a severe local reaction occurs, such as extensive crusting or blistering, stop the imiquimod cream until the reaction resolves.
8. Then restart the cream as previously prescribed and use it as tolerated. For example, if you are using the cream daily and are experiencing a great deal of irritation you may need to decrease the application to every other day or even three times per week.
9. Imiquimod cream comes in little packets. Perforate the packet with a needle and squeeze just enough onto the fingertip or a Q-Tip to apply to the lesion and immediate surrounding areas. Only a small amount of cream is needed.
10. Please use the imiquimod medication packet until the medication is used up. Keep the unfinished perforated packet in a zip-loc bag.
11. If you have problems or questions contact the Dermatology Department.