

## **Protocol: Squaric Acid Dibutylester (SADBE)**

### **Home Immunotherapy of Common Warts**

#### **General Information:**

Squaric acid is an immunotherapy used to treat common warts. This treatment is non-toxic, and easy to use. The treatment activated your immune system to combat the warts and therefore it may cause an allergic reaction, similar to poison oak. This reaction can be managed with a topical cortisone cream. Blistering and lightening of the skin may occur, but rarely.

#### **FIRST STEP**

**Office Sensitization:** 2% SABDE will be applied to a dime-sized area of the upper arm by the doctor or nurse. At this site, in the following one to two weeks, redness may develop in 10% of patients. A small amount of topical steroid, such as over the counter hydrocortisone 1% ointment, can be used to treat this. Two weeks after you are sensitized you will begin your home treatment with a diluted form of squaric acid that you will obtain from the pharmacy.

#### **SECOND STEP**

**Get squaric acid at the pharmacy:** Pick up a prescription of diluted squaric acid at the pharmacy. Your MD will order this medication. From the time it is ordered it takes 7-14 days for the pharmacy to prepare it.

#### **Starting therapy:**

1. Patient to start applying 0.2% squaric acid (SADBE) approximately 2 weeks after sensitization in office.
2. Apply a small amount with a Q tip to warts each day.
3. Avoid application to facial warts unless instructed to do so by the doctor.
4. The medicine is drippy and evaporates easily, so application should be quick and be performed with care not to spill it or drip it. Keep this medication in the refrigerator.

**Note: If you develop rash during therapy with SADBE, discontinue therapy and contact the Department of Dermatology**

**What to expect:** Responders can expect improvements as early as one month, and clearance as early as three months. No change will generally be seen for the first 4 weeks of therapy. If nothing happens, do not stop the medication because you do not think it is working. Just be patient.

**For questions:** If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Department of Dermatology.