

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use IMIQUIMOD cream safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for IMIQUIMOD cream.

IMIQUIMOD cream, 3.75%, for topical use
Initial U.S. Approval: 1997

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

- Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% is indicated for the topical treatment of clinically typical, visible or palpable actinic keratoses (AK) of the full face or balding scalp in immunocompetent adults. (1.1)

- Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% is also indicated for the topical treatment of external genital and perianal warts/condylooma acuminata (EGW) in patients 12 years or older. (1.2)

- Limitations of Use: Efficacy of imiquimod cream was not demonstrated for molluscum contagiosum in children 2 to 12 years of age. (1.3, 8.4)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- For topical use only; not for oral, ophthalmic, intra-anal, or intravaginal use. (2)

- Actinic Keratosis: Once daily to the skin of the affected area (either the entire face or balding scalp) for two 2-week treatment cycles separated by a 2-week no-treatment period. (2.1)

- External Genital Warts: Once daily to the external genital/perianal warts until total clearance or up to 8 weeks. (2.2)

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Cream: 3.75% pump. (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- None. (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Intense local inflammatory reactions can occur (e.g., skin weeping, erosion). Dosing interruption may be required. (2, 5, 1, 6)

- Severe local inflammatory reactions of the female external genitalia can lead to severe vulvar swelling. Severe vulvar swelling can lead to urinary retention; dosing should be interrupted or discontinued. (5.1)

- Flu-like systemic signs and symptoms including fatigue, nausea, fever, myalgias, arthralgias, and chills can occur. Dosing interruption may be required. (2.1, 2.2, 5.2, 6)

- Avoid concomitant use of Imiquimod Cream and any other imiquimod cream because of increased risk for adverse reactions. (5.4)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Most common adverse reactions (>4%) are local skin reactions (erythema, edema, erosion/ulceration, exudate, scabbing/crusting), headache, application site pain, application site irritation, application site pruritus, fatigue, influenza-like illness, and nausea. (6.1, 6.2)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC at 1-800-321-4576 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

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Local skin reactions at the treatment site are common *[see Adverse Reactions (6.2)]*, and may necessitate a rest period of several days; resume treatment once the reaction subsides. Non-occlusive dressings, such as cotton gauze or cotton underwear, may be used in the management of skin reactions.

Prescribe up to two 7.5 g pumps for the total treatment course. Use of excessive amounts of cream should be avoided.

2.3 Pump Administration

Imiquimod Cream pumps should be primed before using for the first time by repeatedly depressing the actuator until cream is dispensed. It is not necessary to repeat this priming process during treatment.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% is a white to faintly yellow cream available in pump bottles. Each pump bottle, when actuated after priming, delivers 0.235 grams of cream.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

None.

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Local Skin Reactions

Intense local skin reactions including skin weeping or erosion can occur after a few applications of Imiquimod Cream and may require an interruption of dosing *[see Dosage and Administration (2) and Adverse Reactions (6)]*. Imiquimod Cream has the potential to exacerbate inflammatory conditions of the skin, including chronic graft versus host disease.

Severe local inflammatory reactions of the female external genitalia can lead to severe vulvar swelling. Severe vulvar swelling can lead to urinary retention. Dosing should be interrupted or discontinued for severe vulvar swelling.

Administration of Imiquimod Cream is not recommended until the skin is healed from any previous drug or surgical treatment.

5.2 Systemic Reactions

Flu-like signs and symptoms may accompany, or even precede, local skin reactions and may include fatigue, nausea, fever, myalgias, arthralgias, malaise, and chills. An interruption of dosing and an assessment of the patient should be considered *[see Adverse Reactions (6)]*.

Lymphadenopathy occurred in 2% of subjects with actinic keratosis treated with Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% and in 3% of subjects treated with Imiquimod Cream, 2.5% *[see Adverse Reactions (6)]*. This reaction resolved in all subjects by 4 weeks after completion of treatment.

5.3 Ultraviolet Light Exposure Risks

Exposure to sunlight (including sunlamps) should be avoided or minimized during use of Imiquimod Cream. Patients should be warned to use protective clothing (e.g., a hat) when using Imiquimod Cream. Patients with sunburn should be advised not to use Imiquimod Cream until fully recovered. Patients who may have considerable sun exposure (e.g., due to their occupation) and those patients with inherent sensitivity to sunlight should exercise caution when using Imiquimod Cream.

In an animal photocarcinogenicity study, imiquimod cream shortened the time to skin tumor formation *[see Nonclinical Toxicology (13.1)]*. The enhancement of ultraviolet carcinogenicity is not necessarily dependent on phototoxic mechanisms. Therefore, patients should minimize or avoid natural or artificial sunlight exposure.

5.4 Increased Risk of Adverse Reactions with Concomitant Imiquimod Use

Concomitant use of Imiquimod Cream and any other imiquimod products, in the same treatment area, should be avoided since they contain the same active ingredient (imiquimod) and may increase the risk for and severity of local skin reactions.

The safety of concomitant use of Imiquimod Cream and any other imiquimod products has not been established and should be avoided since they contain the same active ingredient (imiquimod) and may increase the risk for and severity of systemic reactions.

5.5 Immune Cell Activation in Autoimmune Disease

Imiquimod Cream should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing autoimmune conditions because imiquimod activates immune cells *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.2)]*.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience: Actinic Keratosis

The data described below reflect exposure to Imiquimod Cream or vehicle in 479 subjects enrolled in two double-blind, vehicle-controlled trials. Subjects applied up to two packets of Imiquimod Cream or vehicle daily to the skin of the affected area (either entire face or balding scalp) for two 2-week treatment cycles separated by a 2-week no-treatment period.

Table 1: Selected Adverse Reactions Occurring in ≥2% of Imiquimod-Treated Subjects and at a Greater Frequency than with Vehicle in the Combined Studies (AK)

Adverse Reactions	Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% (N=160)	Imiquimod Cream, 2.5% (N=160)	Vehicle (N=159)
Headache	10 (6%)	3 (2%)	5 (3%)
Application site pruritus	7 (4%)	6 (4%)	1 (<1%)
Fatigue	7 (4%)	2 (1%)	0
Nausea	6 (4%)	1 (1%)	2 (1%)
Influenza-like illness	1 (<1%)	6 (4%)	0
Application site irritation	5 (3%)	4 (3%)	0
Pyrexia	5 (3%)	0	0
Anorexia	4 (3%)	0	0
Dizziness	4 (3%)	1 (<1%)	0
Herpes simplex	4 (3%)	0	1 (<1%)
Application site pain	5 (3%)	2 (1%)	0
Lymphadenopathy	3 (2%)	4 (3%)	0
Oral herpes	0	4 (3%)	0
Arthralgia	2 (1%)	4 (3%)	0
Cheilitis	0	3 (2%)	0
Diarrhea	3 (2%)	2 (1%)	0

Local skin reactions were recorded as adverse reactions only if they extended beyond the treatment area, if they required any medical intervention, or if they resulted in patient discontinuation from the study. The incidence and severity of selected local skin reactions are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Local Skin Reactions in the Treatment Area in Imiquimod-Treated Subjects as Assessed by the Investigator (AK)

All Grades* (%) Severe (%)	Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% (N=160)	Imiquimod Cream, 2.5% (N=160)	Vehicle (N=159)
Erythema* Severe erythema	96% 25%	96% 14%	78% 0%
Scabbing/Crusting* Severe scabbing/crusting	93% 14%	84% 9%	45% 0%
Edema* Severe edema	75% 6%	63% 4%	19% 0%
Erosion/Ulceration* Severe erosion/ulceration	62% 11%	52% 9%	9% 0%
Exudate* Severe exudate	51% 6%	39% 1%	4% 0%
Flaking/Scaling/Dryness* Severe flaking/scaling/dryness	91% 8%	88% 4%	77% 1%

*Mild, moderate, or severe

Overall, in the clinical trials, 11% (17/160) of subjects in the Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% arm, 7% (11/160) of subjects in the Imiquimod Cream, 2.5% arm, and 0% in the vehicle cream arm required rest periods due to adverse local skin reactions.

Other adverse reactions observed in subjects treated with Imiquimod Cream include: application site bleeding, application site swelling, chills, dermatitis, herpes zoster, insomnia, lethargy, myalgia, pancytopenia, pruritus, squamous cell carcinoma, and vomiting.

6.2 Clinical Trials Experience: External Genital Warts

In two double-blind, placebo-controlled studies, 602 subjects applied up to one packet of Imiquimod Cream or vehicle daily for up to 8 weeks.

The most frequently reported adverse reactions were application site reactions and local skin reactions. Selected adverse reactions are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Selected Adverse Reactions Occurring in ≥2% of Imiquimod-Treated Subjects and at a Greater Frequency than with Vehicle in the Combined Trials (EGW)

Preferred Term	Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% (N=400)	Vehicle Cream (N=202)
Application site pain	28 (7%)	1 (<1%)
Application site irritation	24 (6%)	2 (1%)
Application site pruritus	11 (3%)	2 (1%)
Vaginitis bacterial*	6 (3%)	2 (2%)
Headache	6 (2%)	1 (<1%)

*Percentage based on female population of 6/216 for Imiquimod Cream 3.75% and 2/106 for vehicle cream

Local skin reactions were recorded as adverse reactions only if they extended beyond the treatment area, if they required any medical intervention, or if they resulted in patient discontinuation from the study. The incidence and severity of selected local skin reactions are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Selected Local Skin Reactions in the Treatment Area Assessed by the Investigator (EGW)

All Grades* (%) Severe (%)	Imiquimod Cream, 3.75% (N=400)	Vehicle Cream (N=202)
Erythema* Severe erythema	70% 9%	27% <1%
Edema* Severe edema	41% 2%	8% 0%
Erosion/ulceration* Severe erosion/ulceration	36% 11%	4% <1%
Exudate* Severe exudate	34% 2%	2% 0%

*Mild, moderate, or severe

The frequency and severity of local skin reactions were similar in both genders, with the following exceptions: a) flaking/scaling occurred in 40% of men and in 26% of women and b) scabbing/crusting occurred in 34% of men and in 18% of women.

In the clinical trials, 32% (126/400) of subjects who used Imiquimod Cream and 2% (4/202) of subjects who used vehicle cream discontinued treatment temporarily (required rest periods) due to adverse local skin reactions, and 1% (3/400) of subjects who used Imiquimod Cream discontinued treatment permanently due to local skin/application site reactions.

Other adverse reactions reported in subjects treated with Imiquimod Cream include: rash, back pain, application site rash, application site cellulitis, application site excoriation, application site bleeding, scrotal pain, scrotal erythema, scrotal ulcer, scrotal edema, sinusitis, nausea, pyrexia, and influenza-like symptoms.

6.3 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of imiquimod. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Application Site Disorders: tingling at the application site

Body as a Whole: angioedema

Cardiovascular: capillary leak syndrome, cardiac failure, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary edema, arrhythmias (tachycardia, supraventricular tachycardia, atrial fibrillation, palpitations), chest pain, ischemia, myocardial infarction, syncope

Endocrine: thyroiditis

Gastrointestinal System Disorders: abdominal pain

Hematological: decreases in red cell, white cell and platelet counts (including idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura), lymphoma

Hepatic: abnormal liver function

Infections and Infestations: herpes simplex

Musculoskeletal System Disorders: arthralgia

Neuropsychiatric: agitation, cerebrovascular accident, convulsions (including febrile convulsions), depression, insomnia, multiple sclerosis aggravation, paresis, suicide

Respiratory: dyspnea

Urinary System Disorders: proteinuria, urinary retention, dysuria

Skin and Appendages: exfoliative dermatitis, erythema multiforme, hyperpigmentation, hypertrophic scar, hypopigmentation

Vascular: Henoch-Schönlein purpura syndrome

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C:

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Imiquimod Cream should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

The animal multiples of human exposure calculations were based on daily dose comparisons for the reproductive toxicology studies described in this section and in Section 13.1. The animal multiples of human exposure were based on weekly dose comparisons for the carcinogenicity studies described in Section 13.1. For the animal multiple of human exposure ratios presented in this section and Section 13.1, the Maximum Recommended Human Dose (MRHD) was set at two packets (500 mg cream) per treatment of actinic keratosis with Imiquimod Cream (imiquimod 3.75%, 18.75 mg imiquimod) for BSA comparison. The maximum human AUC value obtained in the treatment of external genital and perianal warts was higher than that obtained in the treatment of actinic keratosis and was used in the calculation of animal multiples of MRHD that were based on AUC comparison.

Systemic embryofetal development studies were conducted in rats and rabbits. Oral doses of 1, 5, and 20 mg/kg/day imiquimod were administered during the period of organogenesis (gestational days 6-15) to pregnant female rats. In the presence of maternal toxicity, fetal effects noted at 20 mg/kg/day (163X MRHD based on AUC comparisons) included increased resorptions, decreased fetal body weights, delays in skeletal ossification, bent limb bones, and two fetuses in one litter (2 of 1567 fetuses) demonstrated exencephaly, protruding tongues, and low-set ears. No treatment related effects on embryofetal toxicity or teratogenicity were noted at 5 mg/kg/day (28X MRHD based on AUC comparisons).

Intravenous doses of 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg/day imiquimod were administered during the period of organogenesis (gestational days 6-18) to pregnant female rabbits. No treatment related effects on embryofetal toxicity or teratogenicity were noted at 2 mg/kg/day (2.1X MRHD based on BSA comparisons), the highest dose evaluated in this study, or 1 mg/kg/day (115X MRHD based on AUC comparisons).

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