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2. Carac

Carac

Generic name: [fluorouracil topical](#) [*FLOOR-oh-URE-a-sil-TOP-i-kal*]**Brand names:** Carac, [Fluoroplex](#), [Tolak](#)**Drug class:** [Topical antineoplastics](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jan 29, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Carac?

Carac (for the skin) is used to treat scaly overgrowths of skin (actinic or solar [keratosis](#)).

Carac is also used to treat superficial [basal cell carcinoma](#).

Carac may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Carac side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Carac may cause serious side effects. Stop using Carac and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe pain or swelling of treated skin;
- severe [itching](#), burning, or irritation;
- new or worsening skin sores;
- [fever](#), chills; or
- severe stomach pain, bloody [diarrhea](#), [vomiting](#).

Before your skin begins to heal it will become red, dry, tender, and crusty. This is a normal skin reaction, even if these symptoms get worse for a short time. Gradually, the dead skin will begin to shed off and you'll see raw skin appear. **Ask your doctor when to stop using the medicine after you notice signs of healing.**

Common side effects of Carac may include:

- skin pain, itching, burning, or irritation;
- skin darkening or scarring;
- skin redness and swelling; or

- small blood vessels under the skin.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Carac side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

Do not use if you are pregnant. Use effective [birth control](#), and tell your doctor if you become pregnant during treatment.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Carac if you are allergic to [fluorouracil](#), or if you have:

- a metabolic disorder called DPD (dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase) deficiency.

Do not use Carac if you are pregnant. It could harm the unborn baby or cause birth defects. Use effective birth control to prevent pregnancy while you are using this medicine.

You should not breastfeed while using Carac.

Carac is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

How should I use Carac?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Do not take by mouth. Topical medicine is for use only on the skin.

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand these instructions.

Wash your hands before and immediately after applying this medicine, unless it is being used to treat a hand condition. Caregivers who apply this medicine should wear rubber gloves.

Apply only enough medicine to cover the affected skin with a thin film. **Do not cover the treated skin area with bandaging or plastic** unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not apply Carac to skin that is irritated, peeling, or infected or on open wounds. Wait until these conditions have fully healed before using this medicine.

You may need to use Carac for up to 6 weeks. Treated skin may have an undesirable appearance as it heals, which may take several weeks.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Do not freeze. Keep the medicine container tightly closed when not in use. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.

Do not use Carac to treat a skin condition that has not been checked by your doctor.

 [Detailed Carac dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Apply the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** apply two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while using Carac?

Do not use Carac on your eyelids or in your eyes, nose, or mouth. Rinse with water or saline if this medicine gets in your eyes.

Do not let Carac build up in the skin folds around your mouth, nose, or eyes. Use caution when applying the medicine around these areas.

Avoid using other medications on the areas you treat with fluorouracil unless your doctor tells you to.

Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning beds. Carac can make you [sunburn](#) more easily. Wear protective clothing and use [sunscreen](#) (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

What other drugs will affect Carac?

Medicine used on the skin is not likely to be affected by other drugs you use. But many drugs can interact. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

 [Carac drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Carac interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Carac

+

Enter a drug name

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More about Carac (fluorouracil topical)

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Other brands

[Efudex](#), [Tolak](#), [Fluoroplex](#)

Professional resources

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Other brands

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Related treatment guides

- [Actinic Keratosis](#)
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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal


circumstances.

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DRUG STATUS

Availability
Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

7.7 / 10

[24 Reviews](#)

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