

### **AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANTHACUR (CANTHARIDIN)**

1. Wash the cantharidin off thoroughly with soap and water no longer than **FOUR TO SIX HOURS** after it was applied in the office. WASH OFF SOONER if there is any pain, burning, or discomfort.
2. Expect blistering within 24 hours. The day after treatment blister(s) may enlarge and fill with fluid and be painful. Use a cool compress and/or oral pain medications (acetaminophen or ibuprofen) as needed to control pain. DO NOT REMOVE THE BLISTER on purpose. If necessary, make a small hole in the blister using a sterile needle (can dip a pin or seeing needle in rubbing alcohol and wipe dry) and squeeze the fluid out by gently pressing on the blister with clean hands.
3. Next, there are usually crusted lesions which fall off leaving superficial erosions within 4-5 days.
4. Treat superficial erosions with petroleum jelly (aka Vaseline) twice a day until healing occurs by 5-10 days after treatment.
5. The treated area may also itch or look red after treatment. Call the office if this is bothersome or if there is still significant burning, stinging or pain after the blister is popped.
7. IT IS RARE, but anyone can have a severe allergic reaction to any medicine. CALL 911 if you notice hives, swelling of the face, or trouble breathing after treatment with topical cantharidin.

#### **Possible side effects of Cantharidin treatment:**

- *Mild to moderate pain:* Please use Tylenol.
- *Burning sensation:* Please use cold water or ice water compresses to relieve this
- *Itching/Eczema:* You may use a 1% cortisone ointment should there be an itchy rash or eczema twice daily for 5 days. Over the counter antihistamines (Benadryl, Zyrtec) can also be helpful. If the itching persists, please call your doctor for further advice.
- *Post Treatment hypopigmentation, or hyper-pigmentation:* This can take weeks/months to resolve. Please avoid the sun as this will prolong hypo or hyperpigmentation.
- *Recurrence:* If the lesions remain, or if new lesions appear, we can repeat the treatment after a few weeks or discuss or treatments including liquid nitrogen, scraping with a curette, home application of a prescription topical medication, or no treatment.