



## Now, see the treatment of cancerous and precancerous skin lesions in a whole new light

Introducing the next generation therapy  
for treating actinic keratosis and  
superficial basal cell  
skin cancer

**metvix**<sup>™</sup>  
methyl aminolevulinate  
  
**Topical Cream**



Metvix™ treatment is part of a coordinated **skin health program** that your doctor has designed especially for you. By treating your diagnosed skin condition[s] early and effectively with **Metvix™ precision therapy**, you are likely to experience **excellent cosmetic results** – including a **reduced chance of scarring** compared to other treatments.<sup>1,\*</sup>

\* Compared to other treatment options such as cryotherapy or surgical procedures.

# Your Doctor Has Recommended Metvix™

A prescription cream used with photodynamic red light therapy (PDT) to treat the following skin conditions:

- Actinic Keratosis (AK) – lesions on the face and scalp<sup>†</sup>
- Primary Superficial Basal Cell Carcinoma (sBCC)
  - a type of skin cancer<sup>2,‡</sup>

Metvix™ is a simple, non-invasive treatment that consists of the application of Metvix™ cream to the skin lesion followed by its exposure to light from a specifically designed Aklilite® lamp. The cells in the lesion absorb the active ingredient from the Metvix™ cream. When exposed to light (photodynamic therapy), a chemical reaction is activated, which eliminates *only* the precancerous and cancerous cells.<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Metvix™ cream is only used for AK skin growths that are thin and not dark coloured. AK skin growths are not cancerous.

<sup>‡</sup> Metvix™ cream is not recommended for use when treating lesions on the facial H-zone – the ears, nose, or temple areas.

# What To Expect During Your Metvix™ Treatment

## Only three simple steps...

- 1.** Before Metvix™ cream is applied, the affected area is prepared to roughen the surface of the lesion and remove scales and crusts. This allows the cream to penetrate and enables light to reach all parts of the lesion.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.** Metvix™ cream is applied to the lesion and is covered with a special bandage for three hours. During this time, you may leave the office or clinic but you must avoid exposing the treated area to natural or artificial light and protect it from cold temperatures. To further protect the treated area from sunlight, a wide-brimmed hat or protective clothing may be worn. Sunscreens will NOT protect against photosensitivity reactions caused by visible light. After three hours, the bandage is removed and the treated area rinsed.<sup>2</sup>
- 3.** Next, the lesion is exposed to a special red light for about 7-10 minutes. Because Metvix™ is a precision therapy, surrounding skin does not require protection during illumination. However, you will need to wear goggles during treatment to protect your eyes.<sup>2</sup>



- Treatment with Metvix™ consists of two sessions one week apart. After three months, your doctor will determine if you will require additional treatments.<sup>2</sup>
- For added convenience, more than one lesion can be treated at a time.<sup>2</sup>

## Will I experience discomfort during treatment?

Not everyone experiences discomfort; however you may feel a stinging and/or burning sensation during light therapy. If you become too uncomfortable, the illumination can be paused for a short while and then restarted.<sup>2</sup> If the area being treated is particularly sensitive, your doctor may suggest pain management strategies, such as the use of an ice pack, to reduce short-term discomfort.

## Why prompt treatment is important

- Actinic keratosis (AK) is the most common precancerous skin lesion, often found on areas of the body that have been exposed to sun. Left untreated, AK can sometimes develop into squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) — an aggressive type of cancer that can grow invasively into deeper layers of the skin and potentially spread to other organs.<sup>3</sup>
- Basal cell carcinoma (sBCC) is a common type of skin cancer, which often recurs. Early diagnosis and treatment is essential, since it will continue to grow, invading and destroying surrounding skin tissue.<sup>3,4</sup>



# Metvix™ Is An Excellent Choice For Many Patients

Before prescribing Metvix™, your doctor considered these advantages...

- Successful treatment results

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- Non-invasive procedure

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- Low risk of scarring

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- Excellent cosmetic results

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- Most patients preferred Metvix™ over previous treatments with surgery or cryotherapy

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- Large body areas or multiple lesions can be treated during a single session

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- Procedures performed in the doctor's office or clinic allow for prompt treatment and help eliminate long wait times. Few treatment sessions required

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- No additional home treatment needed

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- Simple and discreet procedure means a limited impact on social activities

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- The majority of side effects are local, limited reactions<sup>2,4</sup>

Metvix™ precision therapy may be an important part of a comprehensive skin health program — as recommended by your physician

# metvix™

methyl aminolevulinate



## Topical Cream

Metvix™ cream in combination with 630 nm wavelength red light illumination using the Aktelite CL 128 lamp is indicated for the:

- treatment of thin or non-hyperkeratotic and non-pigmented actinic keratosis on the face and scalp when other therapies are considered less appropriate.
- treatment of primary superficial basal cell carcinoma outside the H-zone of the face (e.g. ears, nose) when other therapies are considered less appropriate. The lesions should have been confirmed previously by biopsy.

This product should be administered in the physician's office by a trained physician only. Care should be taken by the physician when applying Metvix™ cream to avoid inadvertent skin contact.<sup>2</sup>



#### References:

1. Braathen LR et al. Guidelines on the use of photodynamic therapy for nonmelanoma skin cancer: an international consensus. International Society for Photodynamic Therapy in Dermatology, 2005. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2007;56(1):125-43.
2. METVIX™ Product Monograph. Galderma Canada Inc., February 26, 2009.
3. National Cancer Institute. Skin Cancer Treatment. Available at: [www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/skin/](http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/skin/). Accessed April 24, 2009.
4. Lehmann P. Methyl aminolevulinate–photodynamic therapy: a review of clinical trials in the treatment of actinic keratoses and nonmelanoma skin cancer. *Br J Dermatol* 2007;156(5):793-801.