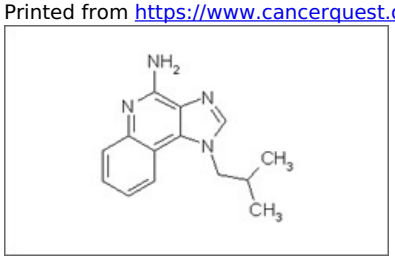
Imiquimod

Printed from https://www.cancerquest.org/patients/drug-reference/imiquimod on 11/21/2026



Brand name: Aldara®
IUPAC: 3-(2-methylpropyl)-3,5,8-triazatricyclo[7.4.0.02,6]trideca-1(9),2(6),4,7,10,12-hexaen-7-amine
FDA approval: Yes
Manufacturer Link
Usage:

Imiquimod is supplied as a cream and applied externally to lesions. Conditions for which imiquimod is used include Superficial Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC), Actinic Keratosis, External genital warts. Imiquimod is currently under investigation (in humans) for its effectiveness in treating other skin cancers, including melanoma.1

1 Imiquimod Topical. MedlinePlus. https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a698010.html

Mechanism:

Imiquimod's (Aldara®) anti-cancer properties result from its ability to stimulate the body's own defenses (immune system) to destroy cancer cells. 1

The structure below is the 3D conformer Imiquimod.

Sphere Stick Rotate

1 Schon M, Schon MP. "The antitumoral mode of action of imiquimod and other imidazoquinolines." 2007. Current Medical Chemistry 14(6):681-687 [PUBMED]

Side effects:

Common side effects include redness, itching or burning at site of application, swelling or flaking of skin, headache, back pain and tiredness.1

1 Imiquimod Topical. MedlinePlus. https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a698010.html