Package leaflet: Information for the user

Ameluz 78 mg/g gel
5-aminolaevulinic acid

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Ameluz is and what it is used for

Ameluz contains the active substance 5-aminolaevulinic acid. It is used to **treat:**
- slightly palpable to moderately thick **actinic keratoses** or entire fields affected by actinic keratoses in adults. Actinic keratoses are certain changes in the outer layer of the skin that can lead to skin cancer.
- superficial and/or nodular **basal cell carcinoma** unsuitable for surgical treatment due to possible treatment-related morbidity and/or poor cosmetic outcome in adults. Basal cell carcinoma is a skin cancer that can cause reddish, scaly patches or one or several small bumps that bleed easily and do not heal.

After application, the active substance of Ameluz becomes a photoactive substance which accumulates in affected cells. Illumination with appropriate light produces reactive oxygen-containing molecules which act against the target cells. This therapy is known as photodynamic therapy (PDT).

2. What you need to know before you use Ameluz

Do not use Ameluz
- if you are **allergic** to
  - 5-aminolaevulinic acid or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
  - photoactive substances known as porphyrins
  - soya or peanuts
- if you have impaired formation of red blood pigment called **porphyria**
- if you have **other skin conditions caused by,** or made worse by, exposure to **light**

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor before using Ameluz.
- In very rare cases photodynamic therapy may increase the risk of developing temporary memory loss.
- The use of Ameluz is not recommended if you use immunosuppressants.
- Avoid applying Ameluz
  - to bleeding lesions
  - into eyes or to mucous membranes

  - on skin areas affected by other diseases or tattoos, because this may hinder the success and assessment of the treatment.
- Intensive lesion preparation (e.g. chemical peel followed by ablative laser) might lead to increased pain during PDT.
- Discontinue any UV-therapy before treatment.
- Avoid sun exposure on the treated lesion sites and surrounding skin for approximately 48 hours following treatment.

Children and adolescents
Actinic keratoses and basal cell carcinomas do not occur in children and adolescents, except in extremely rare cases.

Other medicines and Ameluz
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines.

Inform your doctor if you use medicines that increase allergic or other harmful reactions after light exposure, such as
- **St. John's wort** or its preparations: medicines to treat depression
- **griseofulvin**: a medicine to treat fungal infections
- **medicines to increase water output** through your kidneys with active substance names mostly ending in "thiazide" or "tizide", such as hydrochlorothiazide
- certain **medicines to treat diabetes**, such as glibenclamide, glimepiride
- **medicines to treat mental disorders, nausea or vomiting** with active substance names mostly ending in "azine", such as phenothiazine
- **medicines to treat bacterial infection** with active substance names beginning with "sulfa" or ending in "oxacin" or "cycline", such as tetracycline

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
Ameluz is not recommended during pregnancy, due to insufficient knowledge.
Breast-feeding should be interrupted for 12 hours after application of Ameluz.

Driving and using machines
Ameluz has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

Ameluz contains
- 2.4 mg sodium benzoate (E211) in each gram of gel. Sodium benzoate may cause local irritation.
- soybean phosphatidylcholine: If you are allergic to peanut or soya, do not use this medicine.

3. How to use Ameluz

Ameluz is only used on the skin. The treatment consists of application of Ameluz and light exposure. A therapy session can be administered for single or multiple lesions, or entire treatment fields. The illumination source for treatment of actinic keratoses lesions or fields can be daylight (natural or artificial) or a special red-light lamp. Your doctor will decide which treatment option to use, depending on your lesions.
The illumination source for PDT should always be a red-light lamp in the treatment of actinic keratosis in the body regions trunk, neck and extremities and basal cell carcinoma.

Treatment of lesions or fields of actinic keratoses and basal cell carcinoma using a red-light lamp

The use of Ameluz with a red-light lamp requires specific equipment and knowledge in photodynamic therapy. Therefore, this treatment is performed in the doctor's practice.

<u>Preparation of the lesions</u>

The application area is wiped with an alcohol-soaked cotton pad to degrease the skin. Scales and crusts are carefully removed, and all lesion surfaces are gently roughened. Care is taken to avoid bleeding.

Application of the gel
Ameluz is applied to form a film of about 1 mm thickness to the entire lesions or fields and approximately 5 mm of the surrounding area using glove-protected fingertips or a spatula. A distance of at least 1 cm to eyes and mucous membranes is to be maintained. Rinse with water if such contact occurs. The gel is allowed to dry for approximately 10 minutes before placing a light-tight dressing over the treatment site. The dressing is removed after 3 hours. The remaining gel is wiped off.

Illumination using a red-light lamp
After cleaning, the entire treated area is illuminated using a red-light source. Efficacy and side effects such as temporary pain are dependent on the light source used. Both patients and healthcare professionals should adhere to any safety instructions provided with the light source used during therapy. All should wear suitable protective goggles during illumination. There is no need to protect healthy untreated skin.

Treatment of lesions and fields of actinic keratoses on the face and scalp with natural daylight

Considerations before treatment
Only use natural daylight treatment if the weather is suitable to stay comfortably outdoors for two hours (with temperatures > 10 °C). If the weather is rainy, or is likely to become so, you should not use natural daylight treatment.

Preparation of the lesions
Apply sunscreen to sun exposed skin for sun protection 15 min before lesion treatment. Only use sunscreen with chemical filters and sun protection factor 30 or higher. Do not use sunscreen with physical filters such as titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, as these inhibit light absorption and may therefore impact efficacy.
Then wipe the application area with an alcohol-soaked cotton pad to degrease the skin. Carefully removed scales and crusts and gently roughen all lesion surfaces. Take care to avoid bleeding.

Application of the gel
Apply Ameluz to form a thin layer to the entire lesions or fields and approximately 5 mm of the surrounding area using glove-protected fingertips or a spatula.
Avoid any contact with the eyes and mucous membranes, keeping a distance of at least 1 cm. Rinse with water if such contact occurs.
A light-tight dressing is not necessary. Do not wipe off the gel during the entire natural daylight treatment session.

Illumination using natural daylight for actinic keratosis treatment
If weather conditions are suitable (please see above; Considerations before treatment), you should go outside within 30 minutes after application of the gel and stay for 2 continuous hours in full daylight. Taking shelter in the shade in hot weather is acceptable. If the time outdoors is interrupted, you should compensate this with a longer illumination time. After the two hour light exposure, wash off the remaining gel.

Treatment of lesions and fields of actinic keratoses of the face and scalp using an artificial daylight lamp

The use of Ameluz with an artificial daylight lamp requires specific equipment and knowledge in photodynamic therapy. Therefore, this treatment is performed in the doctor’s practice.

Preparation of the lesions
The application area is wiped with an alcohol-soaked cotton pad to degrease the skin. Scales and crusts are carefully removed, and all lesion surfaces are gently roughened. Care is taken to avoid bleeding.

Application of the gel
A thin layer of Ameluz is applied to the entire lesions or fields and approximately 5 mm of the surrounding area using glove-protected fingertips or a spatula. A distance of at least 1 cm to eyes and mucous membranes is to be maintained. Rinse with water if such contact occurs.

Incubation and illumination using an artificial daylight lamp
After application, total treatment (covering incubation and illumination) should be 2 hours and should not exceed 2.5 hours. However, illumination should start within 0.5 to 1 hour after gel application. During incubation, no occlusive dressing is necessary. It can be used optionally but should be removed before illumination at the latest. Both patients and healthcare professionals should adhere to any safety instructions provided with the light source used during therapy. There is no need to protect healthy untreated skin. After light exposure, the remaining gel is wiped off.

Number of treatments
- Lesions and fields of actinic keratoses are treated with one session.
- Basal cell carcinoma is treated with two sessions, with an interval of one week between sessions.

The treated lesions should be evaluated 3 months after treatment. Your doctor will decide how well each skin lesion has responded, and treatment may have to be repeated at this time.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Side effects at the application site occur in about 9 out of 10 users and indicate that the affected cells are responding to treatment.

Generally, side effects are of mild or moderate intensity, typically occurring during illumination or 1 to 4 days after. However, in some cases they may persist for 1 to 2 weeks or even longer. In rare cases, due to adverse reactions, e.g. pain, it may be necessary to interrupt or discontinue illumination. After more extended time periods, treatment with Ameluz frequently results in continued improvement of skin quality parameters.

The side effects listed below have been reported when using Ameluz with a red-light lamp. The study of Ameluz using natural or artificial daylight showed similar types of side effects; however, particularly for pain, with lower intensity. Some reactions at the application site have been observed before the use of light.

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people
- reactions at the application site
  - skin reddening
  - pain (incl. burning)
  - irritation
  - itching
  - tissue swelling caused by excess fluid
  - scab
  - scaling of the skin
  - hardening
  - abnormal sensation, such as pricking, tingling or numbness

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
- reactions at the application site
  - vesicles
  - discharge
  - abrasion
  - other reaction
  - discomfort
  - increased sensitivity to pain
  - bleeding
  - warmth
- headache

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people
- reactions at the application site
  - change of colour
  - pustules
  - ulcer
  - swelling
  - inflammation
  - eczema with pustules
  - allergic reaction[1]
- blister
- dry skin
- eyelid swelling caused by excess fluid, blurred vision or visual impairment
- unpleasant, abnormal sense of touch
- chills
- feeling hot, fever, hot flush
- temporary memory loss[1]
- pain
- nervousness
- wound secretion
- fatigue
- rash, red or purple spots on the body
- ulcer
- swelling
- skin tightness

[1] Data from post-marketing

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme, Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Ameluz

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the tube and carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C).

Keep the tube tightly closed after first opening. Discard open tubes 4 months after opening.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Ameluz contains

- The active substance is 5-aminolaevulinic acid.
  1 g Ameluz contains 78 mg of 5-aminolaevulinic acid (as hydrochloride).
- The other ingredients are:
  disodium phosphate dihydrate, isopropyl alcohol, polysorbate 80, purified water, sodium benzoate (E211), sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate, soybean phosphatidylcholine, triglycerides medium-chain, xanthan gum. See section 2.

What Ameluz looks like and contents of the pack

Ameluz is a white to yellowish gel.
Each carton contains one aluminium tube with 2 g gel closed with a polyethylene screw cap.

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