

SORIATANE (ACITRETIN) THERAPY

Soriatane is an oral medication, which is very effective in severe psoriasis. In the vast majority of cases, Soriatane is a safe medication when used properly. As with all medications, it is important to take the Soriatane in the proper way and to be aware of the potential side effects.

Soriatane is a pill that is taken once daily. It is absorbed best if taken with food. The dosage is based on the psoriasis condition and your body weight. Before Soriatane is started, blood tests are performed to make sure there are no pre-existing conditions. The blood tests are repeated during the course of your treatment so that any potential problems can be prevented before they would develop.

Soriatane does have some common side effects, which are minor. The majority of people who take Soriatane develop a mild dryness of the lips and mild peeling on the hands or feet. This is usually controlled using lip therapy or moisturizers. The other common side effect is a slight thinning of the hair. Very few patients notice a visible thinning but there may be an increased amount of falling out. This is not a permanent condition, as the hair that falls out tends to fill back in with time. Usually this does not occur at the low dosages normally prescribed.

When Soriatane is used alone in the treatment of psoriasis the results are often slow. It may take months for a major change in the psoriasis to occur. It is, however, one of the more convenient medications to take in terms of a pill once per day instead of rubbing cream on constantly or going for light therapy each week.

The best way of taking Soriatane is to combine it with phototherapy. In this regimen, the Soriatane is taken at a lower dose on a daily basis and the phototherapy treatments are administered two or three times per week. This combination is one of the most effective forms of psoriasis treatment. It decreases any side effects of either treatment. The pill actually seems to make the phototherapy treatments more effective.

Again, Soriatane is a very safe and effective pill in the treatment of psoriasis. It is important to take this medication in the proper way. If you have any other questions about it, please do not hesitate to ask before you leave the office.