



MARK GARCIA
DERMATOLOGY

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Cantharidin Wound Care

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Cantharidin, commonly referred to as “Beetle Juice”, is a blistering agent that is used in medical clinics to treat certain skin infections. Due to its potency and effects, it should only be applied by a trained professional. Following application of the solution, a mild tingling might occur, which may last up to an hour. The desired and expected response following treatment with this agent is for a blister to form at the site; this should be expected within 48 hours. Redness and swelling are also common and normal reactions to the treatment. Some areas of skin on the body are thinner and more sensitive; the reaction in these areas can be more dramatic.

The skin should be cleansed gently within 4-6 hours to remove the solution. Twenty-four to forty-eight hours post-treatment, **begin applying Aquaphor ointment or Vaseline Petroleum Jelly.** These are both over the counter products and do not require a prescription. Apply a thin layer to the areas that were treated. This will ensure faster healing and provide a barrier to infection. Ointment can be discontinued once the skin is fully healed. If there are residual lesions after healing is complete, approximately 3-4 weeks, an additional treatment is likely needed. Please call to schedule a follow up appointment for any additional treatments.

Leave blisters intact if possible. The skin and fluid of a blister is “Nature’s Bandaid” and will heal in time. Should the blister rupture, try to leave the skin intact over the blister.

Continue with your normal routine of bathing and showering. Make-up may be applied over the areas if desired. Products containing Alpha Hydroxy Acids may irritate the treated areas. Hold the use of these products for 3-4 days and then resume.

Should any problems develop, please feel free to call our office at 918-922-9779.