

CRYOSURGERY

(Liquid Nitrogen Treatment)

What is cryosurgery?

Cryosurgery is a technique effectively used to destroy certain types of skin tumors. Destruction of the tumor is achieved by applying liquid nitrogen, which lowers the temperature of the tumor and small margin of surrounding skin below the freezing point.

What should I expect after cryosurgery?

Immediately following treatment, there may be some pain or stinging in the treated area that might last for a few hours after the procedure. Take Tylenol to relieve any discomfort. You may also notice some development of redness and swelling.

The area that has been frozen may begin to swell and form a blister after a few hours. The swelling reaction should peak in one to two days. The area will then “weep” and ooze. This reaction lasts one to two weeks, at which time a crust or scab will form.

Most areas will be completely healed in four to six weeks. Areas treated on the back, chest and trunk will take longer to heal than those treated on the face and neck.

How do I care for the treated area?

Wash the treated areas with mild soap and water daily. Afterward, apply Polysporin or Vaseline ointment.

If crusting or scab formation occurs, it is preferable to continue to cleanse the area and continue to apply Vaseline or Polysporin (DOUBLE ANTIBIOTIC) ointment. Keeping the wound moist can prevent the formation of a scab and reduce the risk of scarring. It may be beneficial to keep the area covered with a band-aid. You may need to rotate the direction of the band-aid to prevent irritation of the surrounding skin.

*****DO NOT USE NEOSPORIN OR ANY TRIPLE ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT!*****

Treatment areas on the face heal in three to four weeks. A loss of pigmentation is often followed by repigmentation, but may take several months.

Scarring and infection following cryosurgery is possible.

If you are worried by the appearance of the treatment site, or if you have any questions or concerns, please call the office.

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