

## **Cryosurgery (Liquid Nitrogen Treatment): Aftercare instructions**

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Cryosurgery is the use of a cold, liquefied gas to remove superficial skin growths such as warts and keratoses. This liquefied gas is cooled to around 300° below 0° F. When it comes in contact with a skin growth, the growth is frozen and then cools. Cryosurgery makes it possible to treat multiple skin growths with little or no scarring.

### **What to expect:**

Your Family Dermatology doctor will apply liquid nitrogen to the skin growth(s) to be removed. You will probably feel some stinging and mild pain, but this will not last long. If you have a growth removed from your forehead, some throbbing may persist. If so, you can relieve this with aspirin or Tylenol.

After the treatment, your skin will become red and swollen and will develop a blister. Healing takes one to three weeks, after which the skin may look perfectly normal or slightly lighter in color.

### **Proper care after the procedure:**

- Clean the treated area with rubbing alcohol or with soap and water as you normally would. It is fine to get the area wet; however, be sure to blot it dry carefully and delicately.
- If necessary, you can open the blister with a sterilized needle.
- Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment such as Bacitracin or Polysporin to the site twice daily.
- If the site is prone to irritation, cover it with a bandage.
- You will likely see a scab form after a few days. This crust will fall off on its own. A second scab may form as well, and it too will shed on its own.
- If the treated site becomes thickened, tender or raised, call Family Dermatology for advice. This can happen even several months after the procedure, most often in the neck or upper trunk areas.

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