

CRYOSURGERY (FREEZING) AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

Cryosurgery (freezing with liquid nitrogen) is commonly used to treat both benign and precancerous lesions. The response to cryosurgery may vary from mild redness and swelling with minimal discomfort to significant discoloration with blister formation and considerable discomfort. The varied response depends on the depth of freezing and the area treated. A burning sensation in the skin may last for several minutes to several hours. Any pain usually subsides over the first 24-48 hours following treatment. Treated areas typically heal within a few weeks.

Aftercare Instructions

1. Keep the treated area clean. The area may be washed gently with soap and water.
2. The treated area may sting and burn for a short time after treatment. It will likely be red in color, then brown and flaky as the area heals and the upper layers of skin slough away.
3. Following deeper or longer treatment with cryosurgery, throbbing and pain at the treatment site may be more severe. A blister may form in the area of freezing and possibly fill with bloody fluid. ***This is not unusual.***
4. If you develop a blister at the treatment site, do not break the blister unless it becomes too uncomfortable. You may prick the blister with a clean needle or pin but leave the skin intact.
5. Cleanse the area daily with warm soapy water and apply Vaseline and a Band-Aid.
6. All treated areas usually heal within 3-4 weeks.
7. Tylenol and ibuprofen may be taken for discomfort.

For true emergencies, please call our office immediately to speak with a physician.