



Liquid Nitrogen Cryosurgery

Liquid Nitrogen is an extremely cold liquid made from the gas nitrogen, which is a natural component of the air we breathe. It is not an acid, but can create a blister when applied to the skin (due to its low temperature of -196°C). It is used to destroy superficial skin growths such as warts and keratoses.

After your treatment, the area will look red and puffy. There will be a sensation of stinging and burning that usually lasts about 30 minutes. You may get the area wet. You may cover it with a bandage or leave it uncovered. Treated areas on the palms and soles may be sore for several days. Tylenol, aspirin, or ibuprofen may help if the area is too uncomfortable.

A blister may form and bleeding may occur within the blister causing the lesion to appear red, blue, or black. This is normal. Please leave any blisters alone or protect them with a bandage. A painful or obtrusive blister can be broken from the side with a flamed and cooled needle, cleaned with alcohol. Do not try to remove the blister, just allow it to drain. In the event the blister breaks or is opened intentionally, it should be protected with Aquaphor healing ointment or Vaseline and a bandage.

Over the course of 1-2 weeks, the lesions will become hard, scabby crusts and slough off. Do not pick off the scabs/crusts. The lesions should slough off and heal in 3-4 weeks. There may be an increase or decrease in pigment relative to untreated skin. This will gradually return to normal color. Please call the office if:

- a) There is yellow pus or a red area extending away from the treated site.
- b) You have severe pain 48 hours after treatment that is not relieved with pain medication,
or
- c) The lesion treated has not disappeared one (1) month after the liquid nitrogen was applied. A follow-up appointment should be scheduled for retreatment. In the case of warts, multiple treatments may be required.

If you have any questions, please call the office at:

781-762-5858 • 508-520-3387 • 508-543-5102

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