



## What To Expect After Cryosurgery (Liquid Nitrogen Treatment)

Cryosurgery is an excellent method of removing skin lesions. It involves the application of a very cold material (in this case liquid nitrogen), which causes a reaction similar to frost bite.

Immediately after treatment, pain and swelling may occur for 1-2 hours. The treated site then darkens (brown, brown-red, or even blue) within 24-48 hours. If the freezing was extensive enough, a blister (or blood-blister) may develop. If blistering is severe, the area may "weep" for several days.

Total healing varies between 1-3 weeks, depending on which area of the body was treated.

### Wound Care:

No special care is needed if the treated area remains "dry" (i.e. the skin remains intact). However, it is always a good idea to keep the skin clean.

If a blister (or blood-blister) develops and you are concerned about it breaking; (because it is located on the hands, etc.) then you can remove the fluid with a sterile needle ("popping" the blister) but leaving the "blister-roof" intact. This will permit it to heal quickly.

If the treated area weeps, then soak it 3 times a day with dilute vinegar soaks. (One tablespoon of vinegar in one pint of water.) After soaking, apply an over-the-counter antibiotic such as polysporin. Use of Band-Aid optional.