

LIQUID NITROGEN TREATMENT

Liquid nitrogen is a cold, liquified gas with a temperature of 195 degrees below 0 degrees Celsius. It is used to freeze and destroy superficial skin growths such as warts and keratoses. Liquid nitrogen causes stinging and pain while the growth is being frozen and then thaws.

After liquid nitrogen treatment your skin will become swollen and red; it may blister. Occasionally some blood may leak into the blister causing it to turn black. This is a normal process and is no cause for concern. It is okay to puncture the blister with a sterile needle to relieve the pressure. Then a scab (crust) will form. Keep the area clean with mild soap and water daily. The crust will fall off by itself in one to three weeks. The skin growth will come off with the scab leaving healthy new skin. It is common for hypopigmentation (loss of pigment) to occur at the treated sites or hyperpigmentation (increase in pigment) in darker skin patients.

You can wash your skin as usual and use makeup or other cosmetics if there are no open areas. If clothing irritates the area, cover it with a small band-aid. Over the counter pain medicines such as Tylenol can be taken if needed for soreness.

Sometimes liquid nitrogen treatment fails. If the growth is not cured by liquid nitrogen, please make a return appointment.

If you have any questions about any reaction at or around the treated site, please contact our office.