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MOHS SKIN CANCER SURGERY, FELLOWSHIP TRAINED  
COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY • DERMATOLOGIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

American Academy of Dermatology • American Association of Physicians & Surgeons

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**WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER LIQUID NITROGEN TREATMENT  
(CRYOSURGERY)**

Nitrogen in the liquid state has a temperature of -320 F. Dermatologists use liquid nitrogen to treat certain skin growths such as warts, keratoses, actinic (solar) keratoses, and some other skin tumors. The skin growths are destroyed by the freezing action of this agent. With cryosurgery we have the advantage of being able to treat many skin growths at the same time and leave very little scarring.

Within a few minutes of treatment the area will get swollen and red. Within a day or two it may form a blister. After several days it will dry and form a scab (crust).

1. In general, you don't have to do anything to the frozen area except keep it clean by gentle cleansing. You don't have to put any medicine on it. If it gets irritated by clothing or shoes, you may keep a bandage (Band-Aid) over it.
2. Occasionally you may get a large blister. If so, you may clean the blister with rubbing alcohol and puncture it with a sterilized needle to allow the fluid to drain. However, don't remove the top of the blister; let it serve as a sterile dressing.
3. As the treated area heals, the unwanted growth will fall off, but let it fall off by itself-- don't pick or pull it off
4. When the growth does come off, the area will be red and sensitive. In time, it should become similar to the surrounding skin.
5. If your growth required deep freezing to remove, the skin may heal without pigment causing a white discoloration of the skin.
6. Treatment of the hands and feet may cause pain. Take two Tylenol Extra- Strength tablets/ caplets every 4 hours as needed.
7. Sometimes liquid nitrogen treatment fails. If the growth is not cured by liquid nitrogen, please make a return appointment.