

LIQUID NITROGEN TREATMENT

Liquid nitrogen is a cold, liquified gas with a temperature of 196°C below zero. It is used to freeze and destroy superficial skin growths such as warts and keratoses. Liquid nitrogen may cause mild stinging while the growth is being frozen and then thaws. The discomfort lasts less than five minutes.

Some hours after liquid nitrogen treatment your skin will become swollen and red; later on it may blister. Then a scab (crust) will form. The scab will fall off by itself in one to two weeks. The skin growth will come off along with the scab, leaving healthy new skin.

When the skin heals after the liquid nitrogen treatment, it is often slightly off color when compared to the normal skin. In other words the treated area may be slightly darker or lighter than the normal skin. Some patients tend to develop white areas where the liquid nitrogen was used. In most cases this is reversible but these color changes can persist.

If your growth requires deep-freezing to remove, there may be considerable blistering and swelling. The blisters and swelling are part of the treatment and will gradually heal by themselves.

No special care is needed after liquid nitrogen treatment. If a scab forms apply plain Vaseline to the area twice a day to soften the crust. You can wash your skin as usual and use makeup or other cosmetics. If clothing irritates the area, cover it with a small bandage (Band-Aid) after applying the Vaseline.

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