

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 usually lasts less than five minutes.

Some hours after liquid nitrogen treatment your skin may become slightly swollen and red; later on it may form a crust, scab, or blister. The scab will fall off by itself in one to two weeks but will heal quicker if you follow the instructions below. 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 slightly deeper freezing to remove, there may be a more exaggerated blistering and swelling response. The blisters and swelling are part of the treatment and will gradually heal by themselves.

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

It is important to treat the areas at home to allow for quicker healing after the liquid nitrogen therapy. Vaseline or Aquaphor should be used on the area at least twice per day, once in the morning and once at night. Some patients prefer to put a Band-Aid over the area which can protect from external rubbing but this is not essential. The Vaseline or Aquaphor should be used until the crust or scab peels off.