



Liquid Nitrogen Treatment

What is liquid nitrogen?

Liquid nitrogen is a cold, liquefied gas with a temperature of 196°C below zero (-321 °F). Liquid nitrogen is used to treat actinic keratoses, warts and other superficial skin growths by freezing them.

What happens when you are treated with liquid nitrogen?

When applied, it may cause some pain and stinging which usually lasts five to fifteen minutes. After your treatment with liquid nitrogen, your skin will become swollen, red and may blister. Then a crust will form. The crust will fall off by itself in 1 to 3 weeks. If extensive freezing is required, there may be considerable swelling and blistering, especially if the hands or eyelids were treated. Both the swelling and blistering are a normal part of your treatment and will gradually heal by themselves. A "blood-blister" may form if blood oozes into the blister, but this is no cause for concern.

Is there special care after treatment with liquid nitrogen?

There is no special care required for the area that was treated with liquid nitrogen. You may wash your skin and use cosmetics as usual. If clothing irritates the area, you may cover it with a Band-Aid. Pain may be treated with acetaminophen (Tylenol), but this is usually not necessary.

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