

EAST TENNESSEE DERMATOLOGY GROUP

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Wound Care

CRYOSURGERY (LIQUID NITROGEN TREATMENT)

What is Cryosurgery?

- A Technique used to destroy certain types of growths on the skin by applying liquid nitrogen.
- Cryosurgery lowers the temperature of the growth, and small margins of the surrounding skin, to below the freezing point.

What should I expect after the Cryosurgery?

- Immediately following treatment there may be pain or stinging in the treated area which may last a few hours. Take Tylenol to relieve discomfort. You may also notice development of redness and swelling.
- The frozen area may begin to swell and form a blister after a few hours. This swelling should peak in 1 to 2 days. The area may also weep and ooze. This reaction lasts from 1 to 2 weeks and a scab may form.
- Most areas will be completely healed in 2 weeks. Areas treated on the back, chest, abdomen, or extremities will take longer to heal than areas treated on the face or neck.

How do I care for the treated area?

- Wash the treated area daily with mild soap and water. After washing the area apply antibiotic ointment (Polysporin).
- Treatment areas on the face heal in approximately 2 weeks. A loss of pigmentation is often followed by re-pigmentation, but this may take several months.
- Scarring and infection following cryosurgery is possible.
- If you are concerned with the appearance of the treated site, or if you have any questions, call our office at (865) 233-7351.