Cryosurgery

Cryosurgery is used to remove abnormal or diseased tissue by freezing. Growths on the skin such as warts, moles, and some kinds of skin cancer may be removed with cryosurgery. A probe cooled with liquid nitrogen is applied to the growth until it is frozen and destroyed. Another method is spraying liquid nitrogen directly on the growth. Shortly after the procedure the treated area becomes red and swollen. Within two or three days, a blister forms over the area. The blister may contain a small amount of blood. The blister will break by itself in about two weeks, leaving a scab and then healing. After healing there is usually little or no scarring.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep the treated area dry and clean and covered with a bandage until healed. It is okay to shower, but if the bandage gets wet, change it promptly.
- After the blister forms, do not pick at it or try to break it open. This may cause infection and scarring.
- Do not apply any medicine, creams or lotions to the area unless directed.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have increased pain, swelling, *inflammation* (redness), drainage, or bleeding from the treated area.
- The blister on the treated area becomes large and painful.

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