

The Apex Dermatology Group, P.C.

Littleton Office: 303-795-2030

Lowry Office: 303-261-1525

Liquid nitrogen is a cold, liquefied gas with a temperature of 196 degrees below zero Celsius (-321 degrees Fahrenheit). It is used to freeze and destroy superficial skin growths such as warts and keratoses (growths). Liquid nitrogen causes stinging and mild pain while the growth is being frozen and then thaws. The discomfort lasts less than five minutes.

What will my skin feel like after treatment?

Some hours after liquid nitrogen treatment, your skin will become swollen and red; later on it may blister. Then a scab (crust) will form. It will fall off by itself in one to three weeks. The skin growth will come off along with the scab, leaving healthy new skin. If your growth required deep freezing to remove, there may be quite a bit of blistering and swelling, especially if your hand or eyelids were treated. The blisters and swelling are part of the treatment and will gradually heal by themselves.

Does my skin need any special care after treatment?

No special care is needed after liquid nitrogen treatment. There is no need to cover the treated areas if the blisters remain intact. If they become tense, or start to expand they should be pricked, using a needle sterilized in a flame, and a simple dry dressing applied. Treatment on the face can cause some swelling which settles after 1-3 days. 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).

Does the liquid nitrogen treatment always work?

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

What should I do if I have any questions?

This sheet is designed to outline the proper procedures for caring for your wound. If you have any questions about these instructions, please call the Apex Dermatology Group.

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