

Liquid Nitrogen Treatment After-Care Instructions

You have just been treated with liquid nitrogen. This produces a localized severe freezing of the wound and a small area of the surrounding skin. Although the freezing itself wore off within a few minutes, the effects, which freezing produced, may not be fully seen for 24-72 hours.

The pain and burning sensation, which follows the actual freezing, usually lasts up to 30 minutes, but can occasionally last 6-8 hours and will be accompanied by redness of the area. Once this pain has stopped, you should have no further pain, but the area may be tender for several days.

Within 24-72 hours after treatment, a blister will usually form in the treatment area. This will probably be a deep blister with a thick cover and may not resemble the type of blister you are accustomed to seeing, such as a burn. The blister may be a bloody blister (red to purple color). You should not be concerned with this.

You are to leave the blister alone. You may carry out any activities, which will not irritate the blister. You may get the area wet in washing, bathing, etc., as long as the blister has not been broken. If the blister does break, apply an antibiotic (such as: mupirocin, Triple Antibiotic, Bacitracin, or Polysporin Ointment) and cover it with a band-aid until a firm crust has formed over the area.

At any sign of infection, such as marked redness, swelling, or discharge of pus from the area, call the office for instructions.