



WACCAMAW DERMATOLOGY

— Skin Cancer Institute —

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Liquid Nitrogen Treatment

Liquid Nitrogen is a very cold liquefied gas that is used to freeze and destroy a variety of skin growths such as keratoses and warts. It stings (mild bee sting) when applied and sometimes for several minutes thereafter. After treatment you should expect:

1. The treated skin will be red and swollen within hours of treatment. A blister may or may not occur. It is typical for a scab to form and remain for 1-3 weeks.
2. If you get a large or tender blister, you may gently prick the blister with a “sterilized” (i.e. soaked in alcohol) needle and allow the blister fluid to drain, but leave the “blister roof” intact. If the blister isn’t bothering you, then it’s best to leave it alone.
3. **Clean the treated site with soap and water once or twice daily.** Although usually not necessary, you may apply a small amount of plain Vaseline to the area. A Band-Aid is not necessary.
4. Continue to care until the blisters have dried and their “blister roofs” have peeled off (generally 2-3 weeks), leaving pink-colored, new healed skin.
5. In general, you may participate without restriction in your daily activities including sports, swimming, and showering.
6. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Important: Lesions treated with liquid nitrogen should resolve completely. **If a lesion persists beyond 6 weeks, I advise you to return to the clinic immediately for re-evaluation. (The receptionist is instructed to get you in immediately.)** This is especially true, if you have any **Actinic Keratoses** (pre-cancers) treated since persistence of the lesion may indicate cancerous change. Rarely a **non-pigmented melanoma** can look like a pre-cancerous lesion, therefore immediate reevaluation will be necessary. Warts and Benign Keratoses may require multiple treatment sessions to clear the lesions. Commonly you can develop **white blemish or scar** at the treatment site. Carefully following these instructions will reduce the chance of infection and minimize scarring.

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