

Cryotherapy: Patient Advice Sheet

What is Cryosurgery?

Cryosurgery is a method of freezing which uses Liquid Nitrogen. The Liquid Nitrogen is sprayed onto the area of skin requiring treatment.

What Conditions Can Be Treated?

Freezing treatment can be used for a number of different conditions, such as Warts, Verrucas or Basal Cell Carcinomas.

A doctor or nurse may carry out your treatment

Will It Hurt?

The procedure is very simple but may be a little uncomfortable, as the temperature of your skin will drop to -50°C.

Children under 8 are not usually treated.

What Will Happen Afterwards?

Depending on the length of time of freezing treatment, the skin will become red and may form a blister, or the area may become weepy. This is normal.

If blisters form then simply let out the fluid and keep repeating this process until the blister no longer reforms.

Once the area has stopped weeping, a blackish scab will form. This will take about 2 weeks to drop off leaving a pinkish coloured area underneath.

The healing may take up to 6 weeks.

If you have received a long freeze then you may be given some ointment to put on the area. The ointment will need to be put on twice a day for 5 days. The nurses will show you how to apply it correctly before you go home.

You can wash the treated area but do not soak it and we advise you not to go swimming until the area has scabbed over.

If you have the treatment and the area is uncomfortable then you may take a painkiller such as Asprin or Paracetamol but do not exceed the stated dose.

If you have any other questions or are concerned after 6 weeks that the area treated has not scabbed over, please feel free to contact the surgery.