

CRYOSURGERY

The response to cryosurgery (freezing) may vary from mild redness and swelling with minimal discomfort to significant discoloration with blister formation and considerable discomfort. This varied response depends on the depth of freeze and the area treated. Initial burning sensation in the skin may last from several minutes to several hours.

Follow these instructions when caring for an area treated by cryosurgery:

MINOR RESPONSE

Keep area clean and dry for 24 hours.

Area may sting or burn for a short time after treatment.

Treated area will be red in color initially and then become brown and flaky as the area heals and the upper layer of skin sloughs.

Gently cleanse the area with Q-Tips in hydrogen peroxide. Pat dry and apply a thin film of antibiotic ointment (Polysporin). Do this at least once a day to prevent infections.

MAJOR RESPONSE

Following instructions as stated for minor response.

Area may sting and burn for several hours after treatment.

Throbbing and pain in the treatment area may be relieved by elevating the area.

Tylenol may be taken for discomfort every three to four hours.

A blister will form in the area of freezing. It may be filled with clear or, occasionally, blood. This is not unusual.

Do not break blister unless it becomes uncomfortable. You may prick the blister with a sterile needle or pin to remove fluid. Leave the skin intact.

Cleanse twice a day with hydrogen peroxide and apply antibiotic ointment to prevent infection and thick scab formation.

All treated areas usually heal within three to four weeks.