

Actinic Keratoses and Cryosurgery

Actinic keratoses are considered pre-cancerous lesions. There is no guarantee that they will turn cancerous, however they do have the potential. Often the Doctor will remove them with Liquid Nitrogen also referred to as Cryosurgery. This is treatment with the application of a cold substance, (freezing). In most cases this destroys the lesion. Within 14 to 48 hours after treatment, the area may scab and or develop a blister. There may be a burning sensation or pain that can last up to 24 hours. The discomfort can be relieved with Tylenol or a similar pain medication. In two to three weeks the scab should fall off and the area should be resolved. If any lesion remains, or is not smooth skin we recommend you return to us for a re-check or possible biopsy.

Instructions for Care

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Clean the blister sites with soap and water, rinse, and then pat dry.
3. Apply antibiotic ointment (Bacitracin, Polysporin, or Vaseline).
4. A band-aid may be applied loosely over the blister until it is dry.
5. Call our office if signs of infection occur (redness, swelling, heat, increases pain, or yellow discharge).