

Seborrheic Keratoses and Cryosurgery

Seborrheic keratoses are benign skin lesions that do not require removal. Often people will choose to have them removed because they are irritated or for cosmetic reasons. The removal of these lesions is not always covered by insurance. If it is not covered by your insurance you will be responsible for the charge.

Cryosurgery is a common way to remove seborrheic keratoses. Cryosurgery is the treatment of lesions with liquid nitrogen. Although it is usually effective at removing seborrheic keratoses, a second treatment is sometimes needed. Keratoses sometimes will come back after removal and often new keratoses will arise elsewhere. The risks of cryosurgery include pain and loss of pigmentation.

After treatment with liquid nitrogen there may be a burning sensation or pain that can last up to 24 hours. The discomfort can be relieved with extra strength Tylenol or similar pain relief medication

Within 24-48 hours a blister may form, although sometimes it takes longer. In 7-10 days the area will start to scab. At this time you can encourage the lesion to come off with light exfoliation or rubbing with a damp wash cloth.

If the area is irritated you may cover the lesion with antibiotic ointment polysporin, bacitracin, or Vaseline and a Band-Aid. You are not restricted in your activities during the healing process.