

Actinic Keratoses – Cryosurgery

Background

- Actinic keratoses are considered pre-cancerous lesions. There is no guarantee that they will turn cancerous, however they do have the potential. In most cases the application of liquid nitrogen (i.e. cryosurgery) destroys the lesion.

What to expect?

- Within 12 to 48 hours after treatment, the treated 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 2 to 4 weeks the scab should fall off and the area should heal. If any lesion remains, we recommend you return for a re-check or possible biopsy.
- It is common to notice areas of darker or lighter skin at the areas of treatment. These typically resolve over time.

Instructions of Care

- Clean the treatment sites with soap and water, rinse, and then pat dry.
- Apply Vaseline or Aquaphor.
- Call our office if signs of infection occur (redness, swelling, heat, pain or discharge).