

Seborrheic Keratoses – Cryosurgery

Background

- 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, additional 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.

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).