

CRYOTHERAPY

Cryotherapy is performed on abnormal skin lesions- both benign and malignant which may respond to this form of treatment. The affected area is squirted with liquid nitrogen (*a natural chemical which causes things to freeze*) which causes a localised reaction without damaging the underlining skin.

The area will react and swell forming a blister in 1-3 days, then a crusty area over a period of time (approximately 14 days) depending on the size of the area treated. The abnormal cells will then lift off and new skin growth will form underneath. The new skin may have a pinkish tone.

Cryotherapy treatment is generally very effective against some of the smaller skin cancers e.g. Superficial Basel Cell Cancers and Bowens

Paracetamol may be taken as directed on the packet if you experience any pain following the treatment.

Complications:

- Local Reaction
- Pain
- Infection
- If circulation is poor this may take longer to heal
- Scaring

Wound Care:

The area can be gently washed with soap and water then pat dry.

If any of the following signs see your GP as infection may be present.

- Redness
- Swelling
- Discharge
- Smell
- Increased pain