**Cryosurgery/Cryotherapy**

Cryosurgery/cryotherapy (freezing) is a highly effective treatment for a broad range of skin problems such as:

* **Benign lesions** (warts, seborrheic keratosis)
* **Pre-cancerous** **lesions** (solar keratosis)
* **Skin cancers** (small superficial lesions)

Liquid nitrogen freezes the skin area resulting in irreversible damage in the treated cells/tissue. Tenderness and swelling can be present the following day or two however this should settle.

The treated area is likely to blister within a few hours. Sometimes the blister is full with clear fluid and sometimes full with blood, which is harmless. Please leave this blister intact for as long as possible. The blister acts as a protective shield preventing infection from getting into the wound and also allows the wound to stay moist which shortens healing time. Areas treated with liquid nitrogen can take up to 2 weeks to heal on the face, up to 3 weeks on the hands and body and up to 6 weeks on the legs.

**Wound Care Instructions:**

An antiseptic ointment and a water proof adhesive dressing will be applied to the area treated. Please keep this dressing intact for as long as possible (ten days to two weeks). Once the blister has burst and drained fluid, gently remove dressing. Cleanse area daily applying an antiseptic ointment and a dry dressing to prevent area forming a thick dry crust which can cause tenderness and scarring until completely healed.

**Everything possible will be done to ensure you have the best outcome, however there can be some side effects and complications such as:**

* **Infection:** If in days following treatment the area/s become tender, throbbing,showincreasing redness or yellow discharge this could indicate infection. Please contact the Skinspots team immediately should you have any of these symptoms.
* **Pigmentation:** With deep freezing it can be very common that after the area has healed the skin may have a pale scar that can remain slightly pink or white in appearance especially for those who have darker complexions.
* **Nerve damage:** This is the most serious complication and less common. Areas that can be affected from deep freezing treatment are most likely where nerves are superficially under the skin such as on the fingers, ears and face.

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