

**Liquid Nitrogen (Cryosurgery)**

### Patient Information Sheet

Liquid nitrogen is a very effective and efficient way of treating warts and verrucae. The liquid freezes the wart or verruca to –196o C. One visit is often all that is needed.

There may be some colour change of the skin in the treated area. Scarring rarely occurs and is more likely if you have had many previous treatments. The redness usually clears in a few months although it can take longer for patients of Asian or Afro-Caribbean descent.

Some discomfort during and possibly for a short time after the treatment may occur, but it requires no more than paracetemol, depending on age, to control it. Children are usually given Calpol or similar for a 24 hour period.

After the Liquid Nitrogen application you will have some strapping applied to the area, you should try to leave this alone and keep it dry for about three days. Some silver nitrate may be applied as a matter of course during the treatment, which may give a dark discolouration (this is nothing to worry about). I advise you to walk as much as you would normally following treatment even though sometimes you may not feel like doing this.

Following treatment a blister should develop. This may then burst, however you should try to leave it alone. The top of the blister then falls away, which soon dries when healing is complete.

If the blister does burst then wash the area daily with warm salty water and if the area continues to weep you should use a dry sterile dressing (band aid or melonin) together with an antiseptic cream (savlon etc) to prevent infection. This should be repeated until no discharge can be seen.

Complete healing takes between one and three weeks, or longer if the area treated was very large.

If you have any worries before or following your treatment, please call or email us to discuss them.

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