Post-treatment Care of Cryosurgery (Liquid Nitrogen)

Cryosurgery is an excellent method of removing skin lesions. It involves the application of a very cold material (in this case, liquid nitrogen), which causes a reaction similar to frost bite.

Immediately after treatment, pain and swelling may occur for one to two hours. The treated site then darkens (brown, brown-red, or even blue) within 24 – 48 hours. If the freezing was extensive enough, a blister (or blood-blister) may develop. If blistering is severe, the area may weep for several days.

Total healing varies between one and three weeks, depending on which area of the body was treated.

**Wound Care:**

No special care is needed if the treated area remains dry (i.e., the skin remains intact); however, it is always a good idea to keep the skin clean with soap and water.

If a blister (or blood-blister) develops and you are concerned about it breaking (because it is located on the hands, etc.) then you can remove the fluid with a sterile needle (by popping the blister) but leave the blister-roof intact. This will permit it to heal quickly.

If the treated area weeps, apply Polysporin ointment and a Band-Aid.

**For Questions or Emergency Care:**
Call the office at 601-984-5160. You may need to speak with the doctor on-call.